

SOUVENIR JOURNAL

2017



"Celebrating Jamaicans at Home and Abroad"

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Note from the Editor



We are delighted to bring to you this 4th edition of our annual Independence Souvenir Journal. Through this medium, we have endeavoured to carry out a part of our mission to connect with our Diaspora in the United States, providing you with information that we believe is of interest to you. We encourage you to continue to see the Embassy as a bridge between the Jamaican communities across the United States and Jamaica, our homeland.

We extend sincere appreciation to those individuals who have contributed articles to this edition. As we continue the publications, yearly, we value your views and in this regard welcome your feed-back on those issues that you would like to see in future editions

We thank our sponsors for their usual support, without which we would not have been able to produce this Journal. Through the sponsorship ads included, we hope to inform our readers of some of the range of businesses owned and/or operated by our own Diaspora members. We encourage you to support these businesses, knowing that by so doing you are supporting your own country-men and women to the benefit of our people.

Jamaica celebrates a milestone 55 years as an Independent Nation this year and our Embassy will again welcome many of you to our annual church service at the Dunbarton Chapel at Howard University, as we give thanks for all that is good about our country. We express appreciation to the Jamaicans in our local community for always being responsive to the Embassy's call on you for support for our various activities and missions.

Enjoy this edition and Happy Independence to all.



Mrs. Ariel Bowen

Cover designed by Julian Evans and Jonelle Bowen

Inside This Edition:

1. Independence Message from the Most Hon. Prime Minister.....	4
2. Independence Message from Ambassador Marks.....	6
3. Jamaican Embassy/Consulates/Honorary Consulates in the United States.....	7
4. Edited version of Remarks from Ambassador Marks.....	10
5. The United States - Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (H.R. 4939).....	13
6. Population Data of Jamaicans in the United States.....	15
7. Diaspora Focus - The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference.....	17
8. Meet the new USA Diaspora Advisory Board Members	20
9. Task Force Updates.....	21
10. Building a Bridge for Our Next Generation - Marlon Hill.....	26
11. Outstanding Jamaican in the Diaspora - Victoria Rowell.....	29
12. Investment Opportunities in Jamaica for the Diaspora.....	31
13. Meet Elda Devarie - A Champion for Promoting Jamaican Products in our Community.....	34
14. Guidelines for Donating Charitable Goods, Items and Equipment to Jamaica.....	35
15. Jamaican Community Organizations in the Washington Metro Area.....	37
16. NAJASO Feature.....	38
17. Celebrating the Jamaican Patty's Power.....	40
18. Meet the Staff of the Embassy.....	41

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Fellow Jamaicans,

On the 55th anniversary of our independence, it is fitting that we celebrate our achievements and strengths while pondering our challenges. Our independence theme this year is, “Celebrating Jamaicans at home and abroad”.

And how appropriate that we should have that theme when our athletes from home and abroad are right now holding our flag high at the World Championships in Britain, as they did for Jamaica 50 during the Olympics in London. So they will no doubt bring glitz and glory to this little island which always stamps its weight in gold.

We can draw inspiration from our sports men and women who have quintessentially incarnated the true spirit of Jamaica: A spirit of excellence, extraordinariness, daring, resilience, optimism, faith and hope. We have been stunning the world with our sporting prowess even before our independence. Jamaica had the first person to make the final in all three major Olympic sprint events—the 100m, 200m and 400m sixty-five years ago. To this day no one has equaled that Herb McKenley’s record. We were also the first Caribbean team to hold the 4 by 400m relay world record, and that again 65 years ago in Helsinki, when the Jamaican greats of Arthur Wint, Herb Mckenley, George Rhoden and Leslie Laing mined gold.



We little, but we Tallawah. Today we have both the fastest man and the fastest woman in the world. As Usain Bolt runs his last professional race in London, an epic moment in time, Jamaicans the world over will have an unprecedented emotional experience.

There is so much in his life which parallels ours. As the recent Gleaner book published in his honour- *Usain Bolt: Legend* says, Usain’s history, and I quote, “*mirrors Jamaica’s—a history of struggle against the odds and against naysayers who have said this little country cannot fulfill its dream of Independence*”. Usain Bolt is a metaphor for Jamaica.

Our rich culture, our sport, music, dance, drama, fashion, language -- represents our soft power. Culturally, Jamaica is a superpower. How many countries in the world, not just countries of comparable size, have produced persons as internationally famous and influential as Bob Marley, Usain Bolt or Marcus Garvey? How many countries have produced either world-famous music or sporting legends, let alone both? Many scholars are now writing about the importance of soft power in international affairs. All over the world, people identify with Jamaican culture.

As we celebrate Jamaicans at home and abroad this independence, let us note that it is not just in the area of culture where we have made a decisive mark. In science, we have made notable achievements. Just a few weeks ago it was announced that one of our internationally recognized scientists, Dr Henry Lowe, was granted what is called an orphan-drug designation by the US Food and Drug Administration for developing a drug from cannabis to treat myeloid Leukemia. This drug, which could be on the market in three years, is projected to have estimated annual sales of US\$250 million dollars in the US market alone.

There are other Jamaican scientists doing cutting-edge research in North America, Britain and continental Europe. There are Jamaicans like Dr. Vincent Reid, Director of Surgical Oncology at the Mercy Medical Centre in the United States who is doing pioneering cancer research and being published in the best scientific journals in the world. In whatever field you can mention, there are Jamaicans at home and abroad who have distinguished themselves internationally. We are a people of excellence.

As we mark Jamaica 55, let us not be overwhelmed by our challenges. Our problems do not define us. Our achievements and strengths do. Let’s focus on the positives for, indeed, there are many. Among our noteworthy achievements have been the macroeconomic reforms that we as a people have fostered.

As a people, we have said “enough is enough!” with regard to debt and budget deficits. Jamaica took the hard decisions and you made the sacrifices to strengthen our independence by putting our macroeconomic house in order. We knew the debt trap and double digit inflation were whittling away our independence, making us more vulnerable to external pressures.

Fellow Jamaicans, you have shown the discipline necessary to undertake the reform measures. We have achieved record low inflation rates and have significantly cut our debt-to-GDP ratio. We now boast a budget surplus after many years of chronic deficits. Jamaica achieved a primary balance surplus of \$135.9 billion in the 2016/2017 fiscal year, 7.7%, or \$12.9 billion above the minimum 7% target. Our independence is being strengthened.

We have demonstrated as a people that we are quite able to manage our own affairs and to show economic discipline without social unrest. Let us celebrate this fact at independence, as I salute you for supporting economic measures which secure a bright future for our children and advance our independence. Nobody owes us anything. We seek no patronage. We are a self-respecting nation, proud, free, and quite capable to be masters of our own destiny. We have something, indeed, many things to give to the world. We seek no special favors. There is no reason for us to be poor. With our creative human capital and fortitude in tackling our economic and social challenges, there is no problem we can't defeat. As the Scripture says, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

We have no reason to be poor. We have valuable natural resources and wonderful people who have impacted the world. We have the resources for an economic take off. People are flocking to our country to enjoy the Jamaican Experience. Jamaica generated US\$1.46 billion in tourism earnings during the first six months this year alone, with the industry growing by an impressive 7.5%.

We welcomed more than 2.1 million visitors up to the end of June. Our Special Economic Zone regulations are expected to be passed into law soon, opening up a significant economic opportunity for Jamaicans in terms of employment generation, manufacturing, small business development and foreign exchange earnings. Our growth in business process outsourcing (BPO) continues to explode as we move up the value chain.

We are a tough, courageous, purposeful and determined people. We have proven over and over again in our fifty-five years that we are equal to any task, once we put our collective minds to it. There are some challenges but I have absolutely no doubt that we can successfully defeat them.

As we celebrate our 55th anniversary as a nation, let us individually recommit to building the Independence Project. Let us each take responsibility personally for our country. Let us turn up to work on time and give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. Let us increase our personal productivity. Let us ask ourselves regularly, “How can I do my job better and more creatively?”

Let us care for our children. Let us find out how they are doing at school. Let us check up on their homework, mothers and fathers. Let us work for peace in our homes, workplaces and communities. Use the soft word to turn away wrath and to counter disrespect. Talk it out, don't fight it out. Forgive. For Jamaica to be a more peaceful nation, its citizens individually, you, and I, have to be more peaceful.

As our anthem says, *“teach us true respect for all”*. Let us value people not on the basis of what they possess, where they live or what class they are from. Let us value each person as a child of God, with just the same God-given rights as anyone else. And those of us who have the privilege to lead, in whatever sphere, let us lead with responsibility, accountability and justice. As leaders we are stewards, not masters. Let's be good stewards.

Economic growth, social justice, social peace and strong social capital are the building blocks of a vibrant and independent Jamaica. Happy birthday, Jamaica, land we love.



My fellow Jamaicans,

This year, as we celebrate our Emerald anniversary commemorating Jamaica's 55th year of Independence under the theme, "Celebrating Jamaicans at home and abroad," we are reminded that as a people with a noble heritage, we have made considerable achievements.

Our country's anniversary provides an opportunity for Jamaicans at home and abroad to reaffirm their pride in and commitment to national development and the achievement of a prosperous Jamaica.

Despite our challenges, we have much to celebrate. We must be proud of the fact that Jamaicans the world over, continue to rank high in virtually every field of human endeavour: in academics and science; in politics and economics; and in the cultural arena.

The Jamaican culture has impacted almost every nation on earth through our exploits in Track and Field and the arts; the gastronomical delights of our famous Jamaican jerk cuisine, as well as the worldwide penetration of the infectious beat of Jamaica's Reggae music. All this is complemented by the development of our island's infrastructure, which has enhanced our standing among the preferred destinations for international investors. This year, our tourism industry is on track to welcome the most visitors ever to our country.

Under astute leadership, Jamaica has begun to deliver on the promise so eloquently laid out on 6th August 1962 by carving out its own niche within the pantheon of the world's marketplace. As we commemorate 55 years as a nation, it is also a time to renew our resolve to give true meaning to the ideals of unity, self-determination, self-government, self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Let us be reminded of the *vibrancy, resilience, strength and creativity of the Jamaican people through the colours of our flag: **Black, Green (emerald) and Gold.** Black is resilient, strong and proud; Green represents our nurturing nature, natural beauty and the "groundedness" of the Jamaican people; while Gold speaks to our successes and our destiny to be winners and champions in the world.*

I am also proud of the role you in the Diaspora have played in this regard. You have continued to demonstrate to others, including here in your adopted country, the very best of what Jamaica has instilled in you. The recently concluded successful Diaspora Conference affirms yet again that the Jamaican people are determined to ensure that we find pathways to success.

In this our 55th year of nationhood, it is my hope that we will, together, renew our commitment to fulfilling the goals that were set by those visionary men and women who prepared the way, and on whose shoulders we stand today. It is my desire to work with members of the Jamaican community here in the USA, to ensure that we continue to build the Jamaican spirit, vision and ethos for our secured future.

Let this Jamaican Independence season be one that will bring us closer together as a people, where we continue to see ourselves as our brothers' and our sisters' keepers. This, I believe, will help us "*continue the journey towards Vision 2030*", to the promise of a truly independent Jamaica, in which we can safely rely on one another, and safeguard our heritage as we move forward under God's guidance.

Happy "Emancipence" 2017!

Jamaican Embassy/Consulates/Honorary Consulates in the United States

<p>Washington DC Jamaican Embassy 1520 New Hampshire Avenue NW Washington DC 20036 Tel: 202-0660 Fax: 202 452 0036 Email: contactus@jamaicaembassy.org AMBASSADOR: H.E Audrey Marks</p>	<p>NEW YORK - New York Jamaican Consulate-General 767 Third Avenue, 2nd and 3rd Floors New York, NY 10017 Telephone: 212-935-9000 Fax: 212-935-7507 E-mail: cg@congenjamaica-ny.org CONSUL GENERAL: Miss Trudy Deans</p>	<p>FLORIDA - Miami Jamaican Consulate-General 842 Ingraham Building 25 South East Second Avenue Miami, FL. 33131 Telephone: (305) 374 - 8431-2 Fax: (305) 577 – 4970 E-Mail: jamconmia@jamaicacgmiami.org CONSUL-GENERAL: Mr. Franz Hall</p>
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Persons from the locations listed below may seek Consular Services from the Jamaican Embassy in Washington DC

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**Honorary Consul:
Mrs. Jewel Scott**

HOUSTON – Texas

Consulate of Jamaica
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**Honorary Consul:
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Following is an edited Version of Remarks by Ambassador Audrey Marks at the 30th Anniversary Banquet of the Jamaica Awareness Association of California (JAAC), 5th November 2016

I am so pleased to be here this afternoon, to celebrate your annual fundraising banquet. Thirty years in indeed a very important milestone in the life of any organization. So let me take this opportunity, on this occasion, to congratulate you on your "coming of age".

We also cannot laud enough the all-important role you play of being that place where Jamaicans can coalesce in social interaction with each other and celebrate together the outstanding achievements of your own in your own space. Your organization of so many medical missions over the years that provide essential medical relief to some of the most needy in rural Jamaica stands out as one of your most important contributions to Jamaica. I congratulate the organization's executive, members and volunteers, most sincerely for all of what you represent in this community and to Jamaica.

As you all are aware, The government campaigned on a slogan of partnership and prosperity. This idea is not new but the imperative of now make its relevant to the Jamaican situation and the consensus is established that if Jamaica is to progress and be the country that we not only wish for by envision, there must be a partnership, not only among the citizens who live on our beloved island, but also with the diaspora, now termed by Prime Minister Andrew Holness, the commonwealth of Jamaica.

Much has being done by the new administration over the last eight months as the GOJ has continued to build its economic growth agenda on the gains that have been made by the sacrifices of Jamaicans over the last few years. High impactful actions that have been taken by the GOJ includes:

Tertiary students now repay their loans on the reducing balance at the Student's Loan Bureau. 251,700 P.A.Y.E workers benefited from the July implementation of phase 1 of the governments tax plan which has put up to \$9000 back into some workers pockets. Phase 2 will be implemented next April.

The government is now providing breakfast for all 5 school days for early childhood and primary school children on P.A.T.H . In addition, the programme saw the allocation of additional funding from the government in the form of \$100 million.

The government has made the payment of fees at the secondary level non-mandatory. Schools received the first tranche of payment from the education ministry in July, a first in our history. Many National Housing Trust contributors saw interest rates reduced to 1 percent. Such a move enabled minimum wage earners to now become qualified for loans. For the very first time, minimum wage earners are now capable of buying their own home from the NHT.

We are therefore heartened as we see a tide that is turning for our homeland. The economy grew 2.3%, the highest single quarter growth since 2002 and Business/Consumers confidence at its highest since 2003. The agricultural sector recorded growth of 28% last quarter while the tourism sector has continued to recorded growth. In addition, Jamaica has been noted in the 2016 World Bank Doing Business Report as, besides Costa Rica, the only other economy in Latin America and the Caribbean to make it to the list of ten top improvers.

This highlights the fact that Jamaica continues to improve its business friendly culture and has the advantages of a stable political environment, a strong financial institution network with robust and vibrant stock markets, a multi-modal transportation system, a telecommunication infrastructure with built-in redundancies across the island, and a trained and competent workforce. The Government is actively pursuing strategies to ensure that the private sector; of which MSMEs are a huge portion; drives economic growth, with the Government enabling and catalysing that growth.

I am also pleased to share with you that our Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Minister Audley Shaw, has continued a smooth transition with the inherited IMF program and has signaled attaining fiscal containment. From the representatives of the financial sector it is noted and being lauded that the fundamentals in the economy are going in the right direction with inflation at an all-time low. Minister Shaw has also recently shared and the current account, "although still in deficit, is at the two per cent range, down from 10 to 11 per cent" and importantly as there is no shortage of foreign exchange, with our Net International Reserve (NIR) now more than US\$3 billion. Jamaica still has not achieved currency stability but we are encouraged by both the BOJ and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessing that there is now a fair market value for our exchange rate".

With the noted successes of the program to date, the GOJ has now signed a new "precautionary" agreement with the International Monetary Fund. This agreement has been a vote of confidence for Jamaica. The Prime Minister classified this new US\$1.7 billion provision as an "insurance policy" against unforeseen economic shocks that are beyond Jamaica's control, and that it is a "dividend" that the country has reaped, as a result of its policy credibility and discipline".

We still have many challenges to overcome including our high crime rate. We continue to struggle with crime and citizen security, which I spoke about in another forum last week. So, I am very pleased to acknowledge two of your own here in California, Captain Rupert Francis, your Diaspora Alternate Advisory Board member and Captain Peter Whittingham. We commend you for leading the charge in the newly constituted Diaspora Crime Prevention Task Force for initiating a Diaspora response to crime prevention and control in Jamaica. We discussed just prior to your fact-finding trip to Jamaica recently, the need to incorporate as part of their strategy, interventions here in the United States and I was pleased at your readiness to look into this critical approach to help address this problem.

I am looking forward to working with members in the Diaspora who will volunteer to be mentors for parents and young people who are at risk in vulnerable communities. I am particularly interested in us creating a "Path to College Program" to encourage and channel young men towards college education and skills training. Friends, an organized, strong Diaspora with the capacity for collective empowerment can be a powerful intervention force in Jamaican communities throughout the USA and in so doing prevent our young people being recruited by criminal elements here in the USA and being deported back to Jamaica.

JAAC and friends, I know all of us here love Jamaica and have, in various ways, contributed to its development over the years. It is that sacrifice and dedication that has assisted in laying a foundation for a new direction for our beloved country. Most important to note, are the efforts to promote Jamaican culture and excellence with the aim of creating socioeconomic opportunities through cross cultural interaction. So I can't leave Los Angeles, California, home of the amazing Hollywood, the most well know home of America's creative industries without making a call for talented and connected persons here in the diaspora to think of Jammywood, ok, I just made up that name and creative people will come up with a better name. But as I was recently reading of the amazing successes of Bollywood in India and Nollywood in Nigeria. I couldn't help dream of Jammywood and you know what they say about us entrepreneurs... story of seeing what others don't... Bellevue!

So, I think it's time to monetize our culture. As Jamaicans we like to share our culture - our food, our music, our dance, our opinion and expertise (even when we think we know more than we really do). If you think about it, we are all ambassadors for our country and specifically its culture which has so influenced the world stage that people are constantly amazed by our geographical size – imagine that, a dot on the map that has produced Rastafari, Bob Marley, reggae, dancehall (now being sampled by all global artists), award winning writers like Marlon James and the fastest man and woman on the planet.

We also have the case right here with you where Jamaicans are known as hard workers, committed to excellence especially in foreign places in the face of adversity. The question now is how can we transform these qualities of uniqueness, resilience, creativity and a commitment to being the best into real economic opportunities for our community and country.

This brings me to speak about the real potential I see in our creative industries. We must monetize our creative capital –as a key driver of economic success. The creative industries represent legitimate enterprise now more than any other time in world history. Available data from research is providing empirical evidence linking creativity with the wealth, innovation and competitiveness of nations. Most countries that have developed sustainable wealth have never lost sight of the synergy between promoting and nurturing arts and culture and economic development. It's time we stopped talking about brand Jamaica and put our best minds at the table to create an action plan to monetize our creative capital.

A new report titled, *Cultural Times – The First Global Map of the Creative and Cultural Industries*, produced by UNESCO and EY revealed that the creative economy employed nearly 30 million people worldwide and employs more people than the once booming automotive industry in the United States, Europe and Japan combined. It's also a fact that the creative industries generated more than \$2.3 trillion in revenue or just about 3% of the world's GDP in 2013. The details of the research are available for all to examine and review in detail but the point I want to make is that the current creative economy is currently concentrated in Asia, Europe and North America – isn't it time the Caribbean, specifically Jamaica, home to some of the most creative people on the planet to activate a plan to take a far more significant piece of this very valuable pie?

The area of opportunity that excites me is the potential of the creative industries to help us resolve the matter of youth unemployment and general lack of formal channels to unearth their talents, ideas and the innovations that can revolutionize and incentivize the space economically and socially. The creative industries globally tend to be far more inclusive than other sectors progressively moving beyond class, race and gender. In Europe, cultural sectors employ people between the ages of 15-29 more than any other and see a higher level of participation by women.

Another area yet to be explored for wealth creation is the synergy between our rich storytelling culture, award winning literary sector and film. There is a space to tell our stories from an authentic point of view as a way of first affirming ourselves and then sharing it with the world. The Indian – Bollywood, and Nigerian – Nollywood, have demonstrated this in a real way – both are billion dollar industries providing employment and real opportunities as the main stream takes notice. This takes me to a planting the seed for an idea here, this is after all California!... the home of Silicon Valley, innovation at its best.

Jammywood, Jamaica's creative industry, has the potential to be a mega income-earning industry. The Jamaican brand is a globally recognized brand. Our music industry, including reggae, dancehall and even our movie-making potential are recognized. Famous movies have already been made in Jamaica, or about Jamaica: From the *Harder They Come* to *Cool Runnings*; *Dance Hall Queen*; *Cocktails*, *How Stella Got Her Grooves Back*; *James Bond* movies. The scope for monetization of our creative industry is especially potentially lucrative when one considers that in Hollywood there is now demand for greater recognition of diversity. Madge Sinclair, Jeff Gunther Anderson, (who I believe is here tonight) and Sheryl Lee Ralph, both born in Jamaica, have brought to Hollywood their own Jamaican flavour to the acting world, trailblazing for others to follow. When I talk about potential for monetization, I am not just talking about becoming the next famous movie actor but all areas filmmaking....directing...producing...making documentaries.

There are enough people interested in Jamaica and its culture to warrant us taking charge of our own destiny and telling our own stories the way we want to tell it, with authenticity. A new Usain Bolt film, *Sprinter*, chronicling his life will be in the cinemas shortly. Ambassador Usain Bolt has to date, provided the most successful example in the Jamaican context of monetizing an intangible – a brand.

The things I speak of are possible with hard work, an informed and strategic plan of action and people who are willing to participate, support and invest in the vision. We believe that empowered businesses, fostering inclusive economic growth, is one of the most effective ways to overcome poverty which fuels crime and disorder.

Growth and Job Creation has been the government's focus of the last eight months. It has set an ambitious 5 in 4 target for economic growth, job creation and the fulfilment of a prosperous nation. We want the total buy-in of every single Jamaican including you here in the diaspora to truly make Jamaica the place of choice to work, raise your families, do business or to retire in peace and prosperity. **Thank you!**

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The United States -Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (H.R. 4939)



On 16 December 2016, President Obama signed into law legislation H.R. 4939 – *The United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act*, which establishes a new platform for future engagement between the United States and the Caribbean. New York Congressman Eliot Engel (Democrat) and Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Republican), piloted the legislation, which received strong bi-partisan support from both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate.

This legislation is hailed as a critically important development, which not only signals the intent of the US government to strengthen its relations with the region, but is viewed as a positive response to concerns by many over the years, of neglect of the region by the U.S. This is against the background that the Caribbean is the 7th most important trading partner for the United States; that the Caribbean is the United States' Third border; that the United States is the Region's largest trading partner and is home to the largest population of people from the Caribbean outside of their respective countries.

The United States Department of State, as mandated, prepared a broad framework strategy document for implementation of the Act, which was submitted to Congress on 19 June 2017. This framework benefited from wide consultations involving the Governments of the Caribbean, through the Caribbean Embassies, civil society and United States agencies and entities and the Caribbean Diaspora.

The Strategy, referred to as the **Caribbean 2020: A Multi-Year Strategy To Increase the Security, Prosperity, and Well-Being of the People of the United States and the Caribbean**, identifies the following 6 priority areas to be addressed: Security, Prosperity, Diplomacy, Energy, Education and Health.

Aside from the necessary collaboration that must take place at the bilateral level between the Governments of the Region and the United States, the Strategy identifies a key role to be played by the Diaspora in strengthening and executing US/Caribbean engagement. It is in this vein that the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) is to be commended for its participation, on behalf of the Diaspora, to the State Department, of a Paper on priorities for the region, as viewed by the Diaspora.

It is urged that members of the Diaspora, especially those who are lawful and responsible citizens who are contributing to the development of this country see themselves as a voice in their respective communities, in advocating with their political representatives on issues of importance to the Caribbean, especially on those issues that are likely to negatively impact the implementation of the Strategy. Our Diaspora members are educated, well informed, and are a powerful force when they are united and working towards a purpose.

To know more about the Act and the Strategy, visit the following websites:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4939>

<https://www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/caribbeanstrategy/index.htm>

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Legislative-Week-Recap-in-Pictures--State-Department-Call---Much-More----JUNE-27th.html?soid=1102224459998&aid=dt6sAc-XIY>



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Diaspora Focus



The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference

This year's biennial Diaspora Conference, dubbed "The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference", held at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston 23-26 July 2017, coalesced around the staging of significant events related to Jamaica's milestone 55th Independence Anniversary celebrations. Convened this year under the theme - "Partnering for Growth", the Conference continued its tradition of forging a partnership between Jamaica and its Diaspora aimed towards the mutually beneficial development of Jamaica and its nationals spread across the globe as a borderless entity.

The Conference, which was officially opened by Prime Minister the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, was strategically centered around the growth agenda for the country, prioritized around the recommendations



of the Economic Growth Council's (EGC). The recommendations recognized the critical importance of Diaspora engagement, an essential strategy for moving forward the Government's plan for growth and development, ultimately aimed at growing the Jamaican economy by 5 percent in 4 years.

The Conference agenda included vibrant and focused discussions around issues of: education, health, Security, philanthropy, investment opportunities available to the Diaspora and Youth engagement. It also included a marketplace for the exposition of business interests and provided services to the Diaspora including consular services, speedy provision of official documents all under one roof.

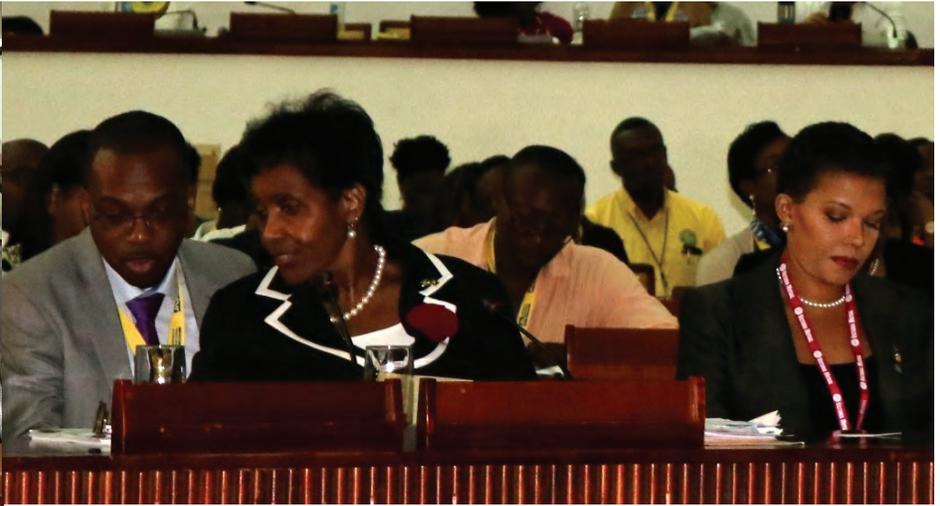
Outstanding members of the Diaspora received the prestigious **Governor General's Award for Excellence**, for their contributions and work in their communities. Heartiest congratulations to Ms. Joan Pinnock, immediate former Diaspora Advisory Board Member for the North East USA, and Miss Erin Lue Hing, Future Leader, who came out on top from a competitive field of other outstanding nominees from the United States.

This year, the well supported **Day of Service** which followed the official meetings on 27th July, saw a record number of projects and participants involving themselves in a wide ranging number of community activities across the country. The Embassy wishes to express its appreciation and congratulates the members of the Diaspora, especially those from the United States, for their unwavering interest and generosity of spirit that made the Day of Service the huge success that it was.

The Conference concluded with a number of action-oriented recommendations arising from concerns and issues addressed by the various discussions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade is determined to continue to work with all of its partners and the Diaspora towards their implementation.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith and the team from the Ministry, along with the Jamaican Diplomatic Missions from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, are grateful for the cooperation of the Diaspora, the supportive partners and all concerned in making the Conference the success that it was.

The next Conference will be held in 2019. More information to follow in due course.



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Meet the new USA Diaspora Advisory Board Members



Diaspora Advisory Board (DAB) members advise the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade on matters concerning the Diaspora. In the USA, three elected Board members, supported by their Alternates, have responsibility for three geographic areas covering several States: the North East, the West/Mid-West USA and the Southern USA, as indicated below. Members of the Board are required to interface with the Jamaican community in their respective areas to build awareness of the issues/interests and concerns of the Jamaican communities. They are also expected to communicate regularly with the nearest Jamaican Mission so as to be briefed on the Government of Jamaica's priority areas for development, in order to share these with the Diaspora communities. Board members should also brief representatives in the Missions on developments in the Diaspora overseas communities.

We thank and congratulate outgoing Board Members: Ms. Kimone Gooden, Ms. Joan Pinnock and Mr. Wayne Golding (re-elected) for their sterling efforts during their tenure.

The following individuals were recently elected in their respective constituencies, to become the new Advisory Board Members for the USA following elections held in their respective Constituencies:

Region	Members	States Covered	Alternate Members
--------	---------	----------------	-------------------

USA – North East



Mrs. Akelia Lawrence-Maitland

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia (DC) Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia

Contact Ms. Maitland at:
joinakelia@gmail.com or
 347-868-0276.



Dr. Ronald Ingleton

USA-West/Mid-West



Dr. Rupert Francis

Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington State, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Contact Dr. Francis at:
diasporaj7@gmail.com



Ms. Marie Kellier

USA – Southern



Mr. Wayne Golding

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Contact Mr. Golding at:
 P.O Box 4336
 Orlando, Florida
 32802-4336
 Telephone : 407 443-3317
 Fax : 407 574 7623
 Email: waynegoldingjadna@gmail.com



Oliver Falloon-Reid

Task Force Updates:



Diaspora leaders, determined to make a tangible contribution to Jamaica, based on their areas of expertise, have engaged other Diaspora members towards their mission. Since the establishment of the first Task Force in 2013, several others have been formed and are making a difference in Jamaica. Here, we provide an update on their work and hope that you will be inspired also to be part of a force for change.

The Jamaica Diaspora Agriculture Taskforce (JDAT)

JDAT was established after the biennial conference in 2015 and is comprised of individuals and organizations in the Diaspora who are passionate about Agriculture and have joined forces to mobilize Sustainable and Organic Farming, Food Security and new markets for Jamaican farmers. JDAT:

- Partnered with JOAM (Jamaica Organic and Agriculture movement) and the SOURCE farm and eco village and the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) to support and train hundreds of small Farmers on Organic, Sustainable and Permaculture training techniques.
- Sponsors the first ever Champion Organic Farmer prize
- Partners with Delaware State University - College of Agriculture to deliver the National Farm Queen study abroad program
- For the second time in a row will host the Denbigh Symposium, which is focused on providing tools, resources and professional development for Jamaican Farmers. Last year JDAT delivered a series of workshops and resources on Sustainable and Organic farming techniques. This year the Symposium will focus on the ways Technology can enable Farmers to access new markets, optimize resources and minimize waste. JDAT volunteers will create free websites and business cards for Farmers. The program will also include demonstrations of simple and affordable Agtech solutions Farmers can utilize today.

JDAT is currently launching an Investment Circle to support micro Farm enterprises and further facilitate Diaspora involvement in Jamaica's Agriculture sector. Farmers will be able to apply to the fund in September.

For more information, contact: Miss Kimone Gooden, Agriculture Task Force Convener, kimonegooden@gmail.com. Join their Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jadiasporaagritaskforce/>



Pam Campbell of the Jamaica Diaspora Agriculture Task Force poses with small farmers who recently completed a one month intensive residential training program at the Source Farm and courtesy of a Jamaican Diaspora Agriculture Taskforce (JDAT) scholarship. The training program enhances the farmers' skillset in organic farming and Permaculture and to give small farmers the capacity to produce and sell top quality organic produce in Jamaica.

Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force (JDETF)

The JDETF continues its mission to positively impact Jamaica's education system. Several teachers in Jamaica have benefitted from training in professional development, STEM education including the use of technology, among others. At-risk grade 3 students have also received remedial education through Camp Summer Plus, with the support of the USAID in 2015. There are two important projects now being pursued:

- The twinning of schools in Jamaica with schools in Florida, and
- The Pledge2build campaign, launched at the Jamaican Missions, aimed at raising US \$2M to upgrade the infrastructure of early childhood and primary schools across Jamaica. The Project has been declared a **Jamaica 55 Legacy Project** for the Ministry of Education and has now been adopted by the Jamaica National Bank (JNB).

The JDETF is convinced that if each member of the Diaspora makes a minimal contribution to the fund, the target will be easily reached.

Contributions to Pledge2build may be done through its website at: pledge2build.isupportjamaica.com

Plans are also underway by the JDETF to host its next Biennial Summit in Florida in March 2018. The team is looking forward to inviting educators across Jamaica to meet with educators in Florida for professional development and exchanges in pursuance of its 6 Year Plan agreed in 2013.



The core members of the Task force, led by Leo Gilling, include:

- Vanessa Butler
- Susan Davis
- Colleen Edwards
- Hancel Fletcher
- Latoya Harris
- Karlene Largie
- Akelia Lawrence-Maitland
- Dionne Peart-Hayes
- Lesleyann Samuel
- Marlon Samuels
- Lorraine Tracey

Contact: Leogilling@gmail.com;
karlenemlargie@aol.com

Members of the JDETF meet with the Minister of Education during Diaspora Conference 2017

Jamaica Diaspora Crime Intervention and Prevention Task Force

The Crime Task Force has been very active over the past few months. The year began with the team forming a number of partnerships with both local and overseas partners. In January of 2017, the team partnered with the New York faith-based: Heal Our Land initiative, who visited Jamaica to serve the police and underserved communities. Other major partnerships were developed with the: National Integrity Action (NIA), which led to Joint Training Sessions with members of the police force. Members also supported: the Caribbean Heritage Institute's Crime Summit in Washington D.C., where they participated in the very successful Launch by the Embassy of the: Diaspora 55 Conference, at the Embassy.



Members of the Task Force at the Diaspora Church Service 2017

Other activities included:

1. A visit to the UK to launch the Diaspora Initiative by the Task Force- Dr. Francis.
2. Participating in Jamaica's Crime Summit—Capt. Peter Whittingham.
3. Preparing for the Diaspora 55 Day of Service activities where our 20 members were engaged in 7 projects Nationwide. All events were strongly supported especially the one involving the Ministry of National Security and the security forces at the: University of Technology (UTECH), The Jamaica Cares Project, The Sons of the Father closing service which saw the presenting of awards for great stewards of the Diaspora. Among the honorees were: Leo Gilling, Dr. Leroy Logan, Elder Orville Dorman, Dr. Clovis Nelson, Lyle Young, Herbert Nelson, Dr. Hansel Fletcher, Irwin Claire and Dr. Rupert A. Francis.

The Church Service at Church on the Rock proved to be a fitting conclusion for such a successful event. Looking forward the team plans to send more training teams to Jamaica to do tactical and

Dr. Rupert A. Francis, Capt. (Ret., JDF) Task Force lead, expresses gratitude to all who have made the Task Force's efforts successful.

Contact the Task Force at: (909) 994-2490 (cell) Email: captfrancis@yahoo.com

Task Force Updates:



Jamaica Diaspora Immigration and Deportation Prevention Task Force (JDIDPTF)

The JDIDPTF was initiated by former NE USA Diaspora Advisory Board Member and President of the Jamaican American Bar Association, NE, Joan Pinnock, an immigration attorney and advocate for over 20 years.

Immigration and criminal attorneys of Jamaican and American descent, as well as community leaders and supportive professions across the US Diaspora were invited to join the JDIDPTF. The Task Force benefits from expertise in different areas of immigration and criminal law, as well as administration, outreach, communication, web design and social media skills.

There are over three million Jamaicans living in the Diaspora – in the US, UK and Canada. Many of these Jamaicans have been undocumented for several years and are eligible to apply for lawful status and US citizenship, yet have not done so. The largest number of deportees from the United States yearly are Jamaicans. Over 20,000 Jamaicans have been deported to Jamaica within the past 10 years.

Convened on November 7, 2016, the mission of the JDIDPTF is to:

- ◆ Assist Jamaicans in the Diaspora to navigate the immigration laws of the host country to their benefit
- ◆ Increase the numbers of naturalized Jamaicans in the Diaspora
- ◆ Educate Jamaicans about the benefits of becoming citizens of their host countries
- ◆ Help reduce the large numbers of Jamaicans deported to the island from the US, Canada and the UK, annually
- ◆ Return Jamaicans who were wrongfully deported

PAST ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ **February 24, 2017** - Launch in Bronx, New York. The purpose was to introduce the Jamaican community and media to the JDIDP Task Force.
- ◆ **March 15th – 18th, 2017** - a trip to Kingston and Montego Bay. The Task Force met with deportees to determine their eligibility to return to their host country. We identified five (5) individuals who are eligible to return, based on their parents obtaining US citizenship prior to their 18th birthday. Our team is following up with these individuals.
- ◆ A series of seminars, town hall meetings and citizenship drives have been and are still being scheduled across the Diaspora regions from April through Sept 2017. These seminars are being held in various locations across the Diaspora.
- ◆ There are plans for several members of our team to participate in the Day of Service on the last day of Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 2017, by meeting with involuntary returning residents (deportees) to determine their eligibility to return to the

The Task Force has created a hotline in the US for the families of detained Jamaicans to speak with members of the Task Force. The hotline number is 929-320-0955 If you would like to know more about the Task Force contact them at this number.



Members of the Task Force shared their knowledge and skills, helping involuntary returnees during the Day of Service portion of the Diaspora Conference, 2017

Task Force Updates:



The Jamaica Diaspora Youth & Female Empowerment Taskforce (JDYFET)

The JDYFET was initiated by Ms. Lavern Deer, a Jamaican Diaspora member residing in Florida. It evolved from the work of the Female Development World Organization (FDWO) - a US-based non-profit 501c3 organization established four years ago, which was originally dedicated to serve as a facilitator and conduit, for the holistic development of young females, in Jamaica and the international communities that impact same. The extended concept is to aggressively engage domestic and international stakeholders, to foster increased and consistent awareness of the systemic problems impeding such development, primarily in socio-economically challenging communities.



The overall concept of holistic development of young females in underserved female populations, through educational, social developmental, health & wellness, and athletic support and programs, has remained steadfast. The organization's involvement with a number of initiatives has led to its focus on young female sexual abuse.

As part of its advocacy in aid of child sexual abuse prevention, FDWO has convened the **Protect The Children Charity Gala** - a major fundraiser to support organizations in South Florida and Jamaica working with the survivors of child sexual abuse. This year, the Gala's guest speaker was the Most Honourable Juliet Holness, MP, wife of the Jamaican Prime Minister. JDYFET also convened the **Protect The Children Symposium**, aimed at addressing the plight of abused children.



After hosting "Protect the Children" Workshop for the Empowerment of Youth & Females, a Day of Service project at the 2017 Diaspora Conference, Lavern Deer, presented to Joy Crawford & Co., Eve for Life funds from Florida Fundraiser.

For more information on the work of the Task Force, contact Lavern Deer B.S., MBA, President at:

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/jiffd.femalefootball
Twitter: @deerfdwo
Instagram: @deerfdwo
Website: www.fdto.org / <http://www.nuhguhdeh.org/>



Marlon A. Hill

Building a Bridge for Our Next Generation

Jamaica is a population of not merely 2.7 million people, but a global phenomenon of over 6 million people scattered on nearly every continent. We are bold and conquering, and have willingly taken our Jamaican talents to the four corners of the Earth. Through this reverse migration, we have ventured into new worlds seeking new opportunities for work and education and have done exceedingly well.

Through our biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conferences we have been presented a unique opportunity to reaffirm our bond with Jamaica, while also presenting ourselves as true partners with the Government to strengthen the growth and development prospects of Jamaica.

As we celebrate our 55th year of independence, it is incumbent upon us to assess and plan for how we will interconnect the next generation of Jamaican youth across the globe for the betterment of Jamaicans, at home and abroad. In order to accomplish this mission, we must be able to critically build on the key tenets of cultural awareness, platforms of communication, leadership development, and succession planning.

Cultural Awareness: For every young person born abroad in North America, Europe, and beyond, it is important for them to be grounded in this bond to their Jamaican ancestry. It provides them a perspective of history born out of resistance, resilience, perseverance, and ambition. This history also provides a context for their place in the world. When a young person of Jamaican descent exclaims, "I AM JAMAICA", he or she is not simply proclaiming that she or her family is from a physical place, but she is also embracing certain values and personal qualities that are common from our Jamaican-ness. But it also comes with a responsibility to build on a tradition of excellence and to make a difference in the place on "the rock" that we call home.

Here, we must ensure that all parents of Jamaican descendants use all their best efforts to expose their children to all facets of Jamaican cultural, musical, culinary, and religious traditions. This foundation of self-awareness will plant seeds for the next generation of Jamaicans worldwide to be grounded with each other. Whether we meet each other in the classroom, boardroom, other elsewhere, we will connect with each other more intimately beyond the casual introductions.

Communication and Technology: Though our traditional media houses continue to play a role, it is advisable that our corporate and governmental leadership endeavor to foster an intimate relationship with the Jamaican diaspora, quickly incorporating digital strategies to reach the next generation of Jamaicans, at home and abroad. Our young people, in this age of technology, are already adept at communicating through the various media - Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or Snapchat. They follow and create trends that are immediately transported to their family and friends' inboxes, status feeds, and WhatsApp message boxes in a matter of seconds. We must utilize these media to reach out to our next generation.

In our efforts to reach our future leaders, one of the first places to focus our attention must be on college campuses. Given the high percentage of college students of Jamaican descent in public and private institutions across the world, there is a rotating captive audience of 18-25 year olds who are matriculating into our global economy every 4-6 years. These young people are bright, passionate, culturally aware, and multi-talented beyond their fields of discipline. For this reason, we must applaud the efforts of diaspora partner, GraceKennedy, for re-instituting its well-regarded "Jamaican Birthright Program" affording college students of Jamaican descent in the diaspora the opportunity to come to Jamaica for a summer internship. Their experiences are sure to be broadcast on multiple social media platforms to their family and friends and etched in memory for generations to share. Once we are able to solidify our cultural self-esteem and modernize our means of communication, we will be steps closer to building our next generation of leadership.

Leadership Development & Succession Planning: One of the most critical challenges for the next generation of Jamaicans in the Diaspora, will be to ensure that we are identifying, mentoring, training, and providing pipelines for leadership. Every immigrant community goes through multiple transition periods depending on the moments of history in their particular location. For example, in the United States, Jamaicans had different waves of migration, whether in the 1920s, 1960s, or 1970s to 80s. With each wave, there are pockets of communities which have formed around different organizations, churches, alumni associations, other cultural magnets. These organizations cannot function perpetually without consistent and deliberate leadership.



TASTE GUARANTEED TO PLEASE



Unfortunately, if these organizations are unable to create fluid opportunities for succession in leadership, then the impact of their missions will peak and ultimately disappear after a couple generations. This would be unfortunate as there is tremendous value to be bestowed from organizational memory, resources, and life experience. With this in mind, for our Jamaican brand to flourish, we must improve our ability to incorporate a purposeful succession plan in our governmental institutions, religious bodies, family businesses, and non-profit organizations.

Partnering for Growth:

There is no greater partnership than a personal relationship. Schools in Jamaica should be afforded the opportunity to partner with a school in the diaspora where there are high numbers of young people of Jamaican descent. These personal relationships may blossom into the sharing of ideas, experiences, or resources, all centered around the bond of Jamaican identity. Likewise, more Jamaican companies, both at

home and abroad, should consider establishing their own "Birthright" programs to provide internship and mentorship opportunities for our young people to exhibit and share their talents. At the same time, they will learn more about their culture and common values.

Every 10 year old in 2017 will be a graduating college student in 10 years and every graduating college student will be entering their peak of their careers in the same period. We cannot wait until we are 100 years old to regret not having to create this foundation for your next generation of Jamaicans. With our population at its youngest in this time of our history and our Jamaican Diaspora growing exponentially, we cannot afford not to plant these seeds of cultural foundation, interconnectivity, and leadership development.

Marlon A. Hill is a Miami attorney with the law firm of Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel and former Jamaican Diaspora Advisory Board Member for the Southern United States. Follow him on Twitter @MarlonAHill or email mhill@hamiltonmillerlaw.com



COLLABORATE TO EDUCATE OUR SONS, INC., (CEOS)

Mission

Facilitating Communities of Contributors for Constructive Action

Vision

Constructive Contributors

Values

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Congratulates

The Government and People of Jamaica

On the 55th Anniversary of Independence

2017

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Collaborate to Educate Our Sons (CEOS) is an international, multicultural, multi-faith, not-for profit organization founded in 2009 by Dr. Bertram Melbourne to help refocus and educate boys and young men (CEOS will be known in Jamaica as Collaborate to Stabilize Our Sons, CSOS). Since those in crime and violence have 0-1 caring relationships in their lives, CEOS is designed to help young men develop five caring relationships. Research shows that with four such relationships, they give up on crime and deviant behaviors. Focusing on scholarships for and mentoring of boys and young men, education of parents and teachers and supporting of mentors, CEOS seeks to develop a new cadre of young men who will contribute positively to society.

Outstanding Jamaican in the Diaspora

Victoria Rowell



Victoria Rowell, is a second generation Jamaican actress, philanthropist and film producer, who proudly embraces her Jamaica roots. She is best known by Jamaicans for her role as the feisty, strong-willed Drusilla Wynters (Dru, wife of Neil and mother of Lilly), in the *Young and the Restless*.

Victoria is currently involved in philanthropic initiatives in Jamaica, including with the Child Development Agency (CDA) and the University of the West Indies, where she has been working to bring awareness and support to children who have been abandoned or orphaned. Miss Rowell's interest stems from her own experience of having being brought up in a foster home. She has a passion for and is committed to helping to provide safe family environments for abused, orphaned, abandoned and neglected children when their parents or relatives are unable to do so.

As part of her ongoing global commitment to child welfare and to provide love and hope to children and youth in Jamaica, she has hosted various events to support child care in Jamaica, including toy drives to benefit children in Glenn Hope St. Ann and St. Johns Bosco Boys Home and women at the Women's Center for single mothers. In addition, during the recent Christmas holiday, Rowell's Days Ferry Productions, along with the Child Development Agency (CDA) and the University of the West Indies held a Gift Drive and a special screening of the hit holiday movie *Merry Christmas Baby*, produced by and starring Rowell, to bring joy and pleasure to children who would not be with their families or receive an abundance of gifts during the holiday season.



Miss Rowell's latest project, a comedy mini-series – "*The Rich and the Ruthless*", is about a black actress in Hollywood juggling the red carpet life, as well as also about the real-deal life of a family in Mississippi, which was shot on location in Jamaica at the renowned Secrets Resorts and Spa. The 6 episode soap series begins streaming in the U.S. on July 28th on UMC.com (Urban Movie Channel). Victoria Rowell/Days Ferry Productions is close to announcing a Jamaican distribution partner for *The Rich and the Ruthless*!

She recently received the Trailblazer Award from the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) in Washington DC for her advocacy on behalf of education arts, foster and adopted children as well as diversity issues.

(in photo at bottom left, Ms. Rowell poses with Ambassador Audrey Marks and Dr. Claire Nelson, Founder of the ICS, as she received her award)





Join us in support of the Sixth Annual
Jamaican David "Wagga" Hunt Scholarship Fundraiser

January 13, 2018
Washington, DC



KINGSTON COLLEGE **CALABAR HIGH**

The David "Wagga" Hunt Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the legacy left by former veteran soccer coach David "Wagga" Hunt upon his untimely passing in 2007.

The David "Wagga" Hunt Memorial Scholarship is presented to students from his alma mater, Kingston College (KC), and from Calabar High School (Calabar), where he was responsible for reviving the sport of soccer and leading them to their first title in 28 years!

The scholarship is in its ninth year and we are pleased to announce that starting with the 2017-2018 school year we will be increasing the number of scholarships to grade eight students from 1 per school to 2 per school --for a total of 4 scholarships. The recipients are chosen from nominees from each school's Grade 7 students who display commendable academic performance and attitude, are involved in sports and/or other extra-curricular activities, and are deemed in need of financial assistance. The scholarship period covers the students from grade 8 to grade 13 at a cost of approximately US \$6,000 per student to be used for tuition and other academic-related expenses. We have awarded 17 scholarships to date and disbursed more than US \$66,000.

David's work remains an inspiration to many and his legacy lives on.

For more information please visit:
jamaicahuntfundraiser.wordpress.com/
facebook.com/davidwaggahunt

Investment Opportunities in Jamaica for the Diaspora

Jamaica is a dynamic emerging market with numerous possibilities for inward investment. In June 2017, Financial Times' investment publication fDi Intelligence ranked Jamaica #1 in its "Island Economies of the Future" report. The publication recognized Jamaica as the top performing island economy globally in business friendliness, and top ten in connectivity, human capital and lifestyle. In 2016, Jamaica was ranked 53 out of 139 countries in Forbes Magazine's "Best Countries for Business" report. These achievements are largely attributed to Jamaica's comparative advantages that have attracted investors to the country.

Jamaica provides investors with a vast amount of investment opportunities in a diverse set of sectors such as Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing, Tourism, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) as well as the Creative Industries.

Tourism/Hotel/Recreational

1) Seventh Harbour - Kingston

This is a planned 206-acre secure, self-contained, multifunctional recreational facility at the Gunboat Beach site in Palisadoes, the cusp of Kingston's gateway. It is also adjacent to the Norman Manley International Airport. The project has been designed so that each of the major components can stand alone and independent of any other. Together, they make an exciting and bustling web of commercial activity that will revolutionize Palisadoes and indeed the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA).

Project features

- Entertainment, Restaurant and Gaming Centre
- Boat Tour Facility
- 200-Slip Marina, Marine Fuel Station and Harbour Mart
- Cruise Ship Pier
- Retail/Entertainment Complex
- Water Park
- 20,000 Capacity Entertainment Complex
- Fine Dining Restaurant
- Museum of Jamaican Music
- 350-Room Hotel with Conference and Gaming Centre

Key Highlights

- Close proximity to Airport- Five Minutes to the Norman Manley International Airport.
- Close proximity to Port Royal, a nominated World Heritage Site.
- Ideal access to Kingston's vibrant and urban populace



2) Shirley Lands – Mammee Bay, St. Ann

Project Features

- This property consists of 29.7 acres of land bordered by a beautiful stretch of white sand beach in Mammee Bay, just outside of Ocho Rios on Jamaica's northcoast.
- The property is ideal for a hotel development.
- Approval is in place for a resort of up to 354 resort hotel rooms.

Key Highlights

- Five to Ten minutes from Ocho Rios
- 90 minutes from Sangsters International Airport, Montego Bay
- Close proximity to Craft and Duty Free shops



Investment Opportunities in Jamaica for the Diaspora

3) Malcolm Bay

Covering 1,000 acres of plains on Jamaica's South Coast, this vast property features a number of coves and a breathtakingly pristine white sand beach that extends for miles along its expanse.

Proposed Project Features

- Suitable for pioneer integrated resort investment with hotels/villas, upscale condominiums and sports facility.
- Beautiful white sand beach

Key Highlights

- Close proximity to the famous Treasure Beach
- Ecological tourism along the Black and YS rivers, and in the Great Morass has been developed in recent years
- Close proximity to Black River, Jamaica's longest river



Manufacturing Industry - Marble Deposits

Jamaica possesses true marble deposits of commercial significance, which can be used in the dimension stone industry. Jamaican marbles are characterised by vibrant colours, unique grains and outstanding beauty that make them ideal for luxurious and high-end applications.

A. Point Hill

Project Features

- Located in Point Hill, St. Catherine
- Generally hard, jointed, well-bedded brown to buff coloured limestone
- Colour varieties include brown, pink and cream with ornamentations of calcitic and purple manganeseoxide-stained veins.
- Recommended use: floor tiles, wall cladding and craft items

Key Highlight: Proven reserves: 20 million tonnes



B. Mavis Bank

Project Features:

Located in Mavis Bank, St. Andrew

The limestone generally consists of 95% calcite crystals, 3% quartz, accessory hematite and chlorite.

Recommended usage: Wall cladding, floor tiles, furniture and craft items.

Key Highlight : Proven reserves: 10 million tonnes.



Investment Opportunities in Jamaica for the Diaspora

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The ICT industry, particularly in the Information Technology Enabled Service (ITES) sub-sector, has been experiencing tremendous growth in the past decade. The ITES segment of the ICT sector consists of contact centres, business process outsourcing (BPO) and information technology (IT), including software development.

Naggo Head:

Naggo Head has been earmarked for the development of a technology park, which is in keeping with the Government's focus on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a priority sector.

Project Features

- Located in Portmore, St. Catherine (largest dormitory community in the English speaking community)
- Joint Venture Partnership

Key Highlights:

- Free Zone status
- Other applicable incentives, authorized by the Government of Jamaica



For more details on these and numerous other projects, kindly contact (JAMPRO):

Head Office, 18 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica W.I.

Tel: +1 (876) 978-7755; Fax : + 1 (876) 946-0090

Email: info@jamprocorp.com; Website: [http://](http://www.tradeandinvestjamaica.org)

www.tradeandinvestjamaica.org

Thank You DMIV

★ ★ ★
for another great



See you June 10th, 2018



Meet Elda Devarie

A Champion for Promoting Jamaican Products in our Community

For the past 26 years EMD Sales and its owner Elda Devarie has developed a special relationship with the Jamaican Community in the Baltimore Washington Area. From its humble beginning, Elda has knocked on many doors offering Jamaican products to many of our Caribbean, African, Asian, Hispanic and mainstream stores serving our community. Her positive attitude and welcoming smile broke many barriers through the years. She developed friendships with members of our community that still stands to this day.



In recognition of the wonderful products and superior service, companies such as Grace Kennedy, D&G, and The Danish Brewery among many others who entrusted their products to her for distribution in this territory. Her love and commitment to our community is evident in her support of many organizations, churches and our own Embassy in religious, educational and entertainment events.

You will find Elda and EMD since the late 90's in Clifton Park helping at the Jamaican Association of Maryland Jam Reggae; or working with CBLA at the old DC Carnival or with the Embassy at many of their celebrations during the years. Our community can always count on them to open the doors, break the barriers to introduce the flavors, music and culture of Jamaica as they expanded their business to other regions and clients. Elda, Puerto Rican by birth, has become a daughter of the Caribbean and one of our Ambassadors in the region. Thanks to their efforts we can now enjoy authentic Jamaican foods in many national & local retailers as well as independently owned stores and restaurants. A second generation is now coming into the business. The little boys and girls that worked and played at Clifton Park, are now college graduates, working from the ground up like their Mom and Aunt did. Working with the EMD Sales team at many of our local current events such as Grace Jerk Festival, Giant BBQ Battle. EMD is a family & community oriented business dedicated to servicing the diaspora. On behalf of the 100+ strong associates that comprise EMD Sales International, we want to Thank and Celebrate with our friends from the Jamaican Community this festive occasion of the 55th Independence.

Elda joins us as we celebrate the 55th Independence Celebration of Jamaica at home and abroad. Out of Many One!

Guidelines for Donating Charitable Goods, Items and Equipment to Jamaica

The donation of charitable gifts to institutions in Jamaica is governed by the Charities Act which addresses such issues as: customs clearance, transportation and receipt, etcetera.

Although it is recognized that a broad spectrum of items are donated, most of the items shipped to Jamaica generally fall under the categories of health and educational equipment. *The National Education Trust (NET) has provided the following information (below), in relation to donating educational equipment, but the same information generally applies to medical equipment.*

It is recommended that separate contacts be made with either the Ministry of Education (for educational equipment), or the Ministry of Health (MOH) (for medical equipment); or both, if you are sending both types of materials. This should be done, prior to shipment.

Educational Equipment:

Prior to shipping your educational items, the shipper should first communicate with the National Education Trust (NET) to determine the suitability of the goods and whether or not they attract customs duties.

Information on computers being donated must be submitted prior to shipping to ensure that they are suitable for the intended purpose.

Adequate notice is to be given prior to shipping to allow for all the necessary approvals. This will prevent extended delays at the port of entry and possible storage/demurrage charges. This information can be emailed to either of the following addresses:

Latoya.harris@net.org.jm; info@net.org.jm

Letters of offer to the institutions should be sent prior to shipping of the goods.

The goods must be consigned to the NET. Do not consign the goods to an individual or school. However, you can indicate the recipient school. For example, National Education Trust for Rainbow High.

Do not package educational and non-educational goods (e.g. medical supplies) together as the approval processes and requirement for customs clearance differ.

Do not package personal items and educational materials together.

A Customs Broker is required for goods valued over US\$5,000.

Customs Administrative Fee (CAF) will have to be paid and cannot be waived. Where donations of education materials, equipment and supplies are consigned to NET, the GCT, Special Consumption Tax, Stamp Duty and Import Duties are waived. However, 50% of the Customs Administrative Fees (CAF) and the Environmental Levy will have to be paid by the donor or the beneficiary at the time of clearing the items.

It is better to ship items by way of pallets, container, D container, crates, skids, drums or barrels as shipping large quantities of small packages outside of these package types will attract a higher CAF.

Failure to abide by the guidelines may result in delays at the ports. Where relevant requirements are not met, goods may have to be detained until the relevant approval is received or full duties will become payable.

For clearance, the following documentation are to be sent ahead of the arrival of the goods to the NET/MOH.

- The Bill of Lading and/or Air Waybill
- Invoice (if goods are new)
- List of goods and approximate value (if the goods were pre-owned)
- Completed Electronic Donation Form

When goods are accompanying passengers, it is critical that the approvals be obtained and the necessary letters be obtained ahead of the arrival of the person, as they will have to be shown to the Customs Officer. This may be done either by the letters being sent to the arriving passengers before they leave their country of residence or by the letters being presented to the Customs Officer by a representative of the receiving institution.

The itinerary of person(s) traveling with the goods is also to be provided in advance.

The approval process takes a maximum of ten (10) working days.

Once NET/MOH is satisfied with the items and the Donation Form, Invoices, Bill of Laden has been provided, a letter will be issued to the school and/or representative for them to clear the items.

NET reserves the right to audit the schools to ensure that items are in fact in use at the beneficiary school.

For further information you may contact the following officers at the NET/MOH:

Health

Ms. Ava Timberlake,
Director, International Cooperation
RKA Building Ministry of Health
10-16 Grenada Way
Kingston 5
Tel: [1-876- 633-8160](tel:1-876-633-8160)

1-876 633-8161

Email: TimberlakeA@moh.gov.jm

Education

Latoya Harris (Ms.)
Public Private Relationship
Manager
National Education Trust (NET)
37 Arnold Road, Caenwood Centre
Kingston 4
Office: 1-876-922-3134 or
967-7962
Mobile: 1-876-562-9542
Email: Latoya.harris@net.org.jm



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Annapolis (MD) Chapter

JAMAICA'S

55th

INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

The Annapolis (MD) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated salutes Her Excellency, Ambassador Audrey Marks, the Jamaican Embassy, the people of Jamaica, Home and Abroad on celebrating their 55th Independence Anniversary. We congratulate you on your accomplishments and your significant contributions to the economic, educational, healthcare and social development of Jamaica. May you continue to positively impact the beautiful people and country of Jamaica.



Yvonne E. Clarke
President



Theresa Buckson, MD
International Trends & Services

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of nearly 14,000 professional women of color in 283 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

Protecting our Legacy while embracing a bright Future

The Annapolis (MD) Chapter
The Links, Incorporated
P.O. Box 6652
Annapolis, MD, 21401
USA

info@annapolislinks.org
<http://www.annapolislinks.org/new/>

**Immaculate Conception
High School Alumni
Association (DC Chapter)**
President: Ms. Lee-Ann Pinkard
Email:
ichsdcaa@gmail.com

Institute of Caribbean Studies
Dr. Claire Nelson
Founder and President
Institute of Caribbean Studies
1413 K Street NW Suite 1000
Washington DC 20005
Tel: 202-638-0460
icsdcorg@gmail.com / ics@icsdc.org

**Jamaican Nationals
Association Inc. (JNA)**
P.O. Box 77641
Washington DC 20013
President – Dr. Jacqueline Payne-Borden
Tel: 240-988-6880
Email (President): Jacquiepayne@yahoo.com
Website: www.jnadc.org

**Jamaican Association of
Maryland (JAM)**
4229 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
Tel: 410-241 7916
President – Rev. Noel Godfrey
jamdonline.org

Jamaica Progressive League
2581 Iverson St.
Temple Hills
MD 20748
President: Mr. Hugh Thomas
Tel: 240 838 7785

**Jamaica Volunteers
Association Inc.**
4200 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Suite # 106-324
Washington DC 20016
President: Ms. Dahlia Gill
Email: jvav012@gmail.com

Merl Grove Past Students Association
President – Mrs. Andrea McDonald Black
alumni@merlgrovepsaneac.org

**National Association of
Jamaican and Supportive Organizations
(NAJASO)**
Office of the President
4229 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
President: Mr. Ricardo Nugent
Tel: 410-908-0123
president@najaso.org

**National Caribbean-American Foods &
Foodways Alliance**
President: Doreen Thompson
website: ncaffa.org
email: devathompson@yahoo.com

Partners of Good Shepherd Jamaica Inc
1519 Ingram Terrace
Silver Spring MD 20906
President: Joy Marie Dufour
www.support@partnersofgoodshepherd.org
mail: infoinfor@partnersofgoodshepherd.org
Tel: 301 412 3914

**Professional Jamaicans
for Jamaica, Inc.**
Chief Executive Officer -
Mr. Horace A. Daley
Telephone (866) 285-9312;
Email: horace.daley@pjfj.org

**Read Across Jamaica
Foundation**
C/O Institute of Caribbean Studies
1413 K Street NW Suite 1000
Washington DC 20005
Ms. Dionne Peart Hayes
Literacy Ambassador
Tel: 952.250.9787
[WWW: Readacrossja.org](http://WWW:Readacrossja.org)
[Email: Dionne_Peart@outlook.com](mailto:Dionne_Peart@outlook.com)

St. Andrew Alumnae Assn
President:
Dr. Althea Belcher
Tel: 301 870 3966
Email:
saintandrewalumnaedc@gmail.com

**UWI Alumni Guild Association
(Washington DC Chapter)**
President: Ms Malene Alleyne
Email: alleyne.malene@gmail.com

**West Indies American
Military Members Association
(WIAMMA)**
11316 Kettering Terrace
Upper Marlboro
MD 20774
President: Winfield St. Hill
Vice President:
Mr. Pierre McLeod (Jamaican)
Tel: 301 758 8273
Email:
Pieiremcleod@msn.com
www.wiamma.com

Women At Real Risk (WARR)
1501 Columbia Rd NW,
Washington, DC 20009
President –
Mrs. Totlyn Taylor-Newby
Tel: (202) 462-4606
tmnewby@netzero.net

**Caribbean-American Political
Action Committee (C-PAC)**
Goulda Downer (Chair)
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Suite 300
Washington, DC
PHONE: 202-349-1498
www.Caribbeanpac.org
OneByOne Initiative
Michael J. Asante
401 Oakcliff Ave
North Chesterfield, VA 23236
Tel: 804-370-2430
asantejman@gmail.com



Ricardo Nugent

President and Chief Executive Officer

The National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO), the only umbrella group of Jamaican-American organizations in the United States, celebrated its 40th Anniversary at the Secrets Wild Orchid Resort in Montego Bay from July 13 to 16, 2017.

Organized in 1977 when the late Hon. Alfred Rattray, then as Jamaica's ambassador to the U.S.A., called on patriotic Jamaican organizations across the United States to convene in Washington DC to form an organization to provide patriotic support to their homeland and to address issues of concerns to the Jamaican Diaspora communities. Some 28 organizations responded in July 1977, and NAJASO was founded five months later on the premise of patriotic support for Jamaica. In the early years, NAJASO members using their direct contact with Congressional representatives in their respective communities across the U.S. served as a valuable vehicle for pursuing Jamaica's interests in Washington.

NAJASO is the only Jamaican Diaspora umbrella group with 40 years of service to Jamaica and the Jamaican Diaspora communities in the U.S.A. During this period, NAJASO has engaged in a number of programs in Jamaica, including through its member organizations, in education and health and other philanthropic contributions. Among these are: the NAJASO basic schools project, the Marcus Garvey Scholarship Fund at the University of the West Indies, annual health missions led by Help Jamaica Health Mission and the Jamaican-American Organization of California, contribution of an autoclave machine to sterilize medical equipment for the Junction Health Clinic, the St. Ann's Bay Hospital project, and numerous other activities, including donations of educational and other medical equipment.

Jamaicans representing NAJASO member organizations from California to New York, Illinois to Florida, Bermuda and the United Kingdom attended this year's Convention. In keeping with past precedents, the sitting Prime Minister of Jamaica was invited to be the keynote speaker at the banquet and the Leader of Opposition as special guest speaker at the Luncheon. Other government ministers were invited to address issues within their respective portfolios. The Convention held workshops on Education, Business, Immigration, Crime and Security, Health, and a Young Professionals Forum which was open to non-NAJASO members who were invited to attend NAJASO's Convention and takes advantage of the valuable information and networking with their Diaspora counterparts.

WHAT IS NAJASO?



The National Association of Jamaican & Supportive Organizations, Inc. (NAJASO) is a non-profit, tax-exempt umbrella Association of Jamaicans and supporters throughout the United States and internationally. NAJASO was founded July 4, 1977, when representatives of some 33 Jamaican organizations from across the United States of America met in Washington, DC and launched the national body to address immediate problems which primarily affected their communities in the United States and Jamaica.

NAJASO embraces non-Jamaicans and individuals, who support the Association's programs; and also work closely with American and Caribbean organizations on issues affecting Jamaica, in particular, and the Caribbean in general. NAJASO does not support any political party in Jamaica, but carries out its program of assistance to Jamaica without any partisan political consideration.

NAJASO'S VISION

Will be the most successful Jamaican umbrella organization in the United States and abroad and a respected world-class non-profit organization. We will be the leading facilitator for organizations, businesses and individuals who wish to be charitable to our causes, a leading provider of resources to the less privileged in Jamaica and abroad, and a premier provider of focused assistance in youth education and in creating awareness on matters of national interest in the United States and Jamaica.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of NAJASO is to be internationally recognized as the representative umbrella organization of Jamaican and supportive organizations distinguished by strong relationships with member organizations, quality programs and excellent service to our communities and homeland.

We will accomplish our mission by focusing on our communities, we will have strong community relationships by understanding their needs and by providing quality programs and assistance. We will be responsible citizens and participate actively in enriching the quality of life to the communities we serve.

Invest in our members; we will respect and value our members and offer opportunities for full participation, growth and reward.

Take personal responsibility for the success of NAJASO; we will be the best and perform with professionalism and integrity.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF NAJASO

Uphold and support the right of the people of Jamaica to freedom in their choice of a socio-political system.

Unite Jamaicans, their friends and supporters in membership and in support of the Association as a vehicle for communication and for cooperation between organizations and individuals committed to patriotic support of Jamaica.

Assist the Jamaican Government and authorities in their plans for national development and in particular to provide advice, expertise and research where possible and appropriate, and where desired.

Maintain concern about and seek ways and means to assist in improving the lot of the deprived, unemployed and the socially and economically disadvantaged, and to enlist and encourage the involvement of Jamaicans overseas in finding and contributing to the solution.

Promote through educational campaigns, respect for the independence and national integrity of Jamaica; to discourage and oppose the subversion of the Jamaican nation and the activities of individuals/groups operating against Jamaica's national interest.

Educate its members, its friends and the world at large about the world economic system, its economic and social injustices, and the need for a world economic order.

CELEBRATING THE JAMAICAN PATTY'S POWER



By Doreen Thompson, Esq.
Founder & Executive Director, Caribbean Food Alliance (NCAFFA)
ncaffa.org, ncaffa2010@gmail.com
Member, Culinary Historians of Washington (CHoW)

Cuisine, like music and art, is a vehicle for cultural expression. Jamaican cuisine tells the history of Jamaica and its people while serving as a source of economic empowerment. For this, the 55th -Year Celebration of Jamaica's Independence, it is appropriate to report on the success of the Jamaican Patty. Better said, the Jamaican Patty, one of Jamaica's major culinary exports, has rightfully earned a prominent place in any recognition of Jamaica's contribution to the foods of the Americas. One commercial Jamaican Patty producer recently rhapsodized on the "power of the patty", which recalled a favorite Jamaican cookbook author's prediction, some 30- plus years ago, that Jamaican beef patties would become as famous as "rum, reggae and Rastafarians".

Our beloved Jamaican Patty is poised to further break out of the metropolitan areas with significant Caribbean communities to conquer spaces and places between America's "sea to shining sea", as documented in a May 2017 New York Times full page article, "*The Jamaican Beef Patty Extends its Reach*". It is also timely to sing the Jamaican Patty's praises as the first Saturday in August is celebrated as National Jamaican Patty Day, through the efforts of a successful Jamaican Patty producer.

While patties are beloved on other Caribbean islands, the Jamaican Patty, has emerged as the most popular in America, due largely to the strength of the Jamaican Diaspora, and of course, the Jamaican belief that it is the "tastiest". It has evolved from my child-hood, beef-only, annatto-colored, spicy pastry to include a variety of fillings and pastries. Patty pastry is now made with white, wheat or healthy flour infusions such as spinach and other vegetables. It also reflects a range of colors from the use of annatto, turmeric, Jamaican curry powder, or paprika. Patty fillings also reflect the range of the creative culinary imagination including beef, goat, chicken, fish, shellfish, vegetables, ackee and cheese combinations. Spices include curry, jerk and combinations flavored with guava. It is available in many shapes and sizes, mild or hot from Scotch bonnet peppers, and is produced by individuals, small batch retail bakeries and large commercial producers who have made it widely available. Some might ask, with all these variations, what makes it identifiable as a Jamaican Patty. As Jamaicans know, it is largely its "distinctive taste". *Jamaicans know spices, and it's profitable to market the Jamaican food-brand.*

What is the origin of this "distinctive Jamaican taste"? It is Jamaica's many cultural influences and the impact of Jamaica's soil and climate (terroir) on its spices. The Jamaican Patty reflects this. While it likely originated from the meat-filled English or Cornish Pasty, or Spanish Empanada, it incorporated the annatto and the scotch bonnet pepper brought from South America to Jamaica by the Indigenous peoples, and the African and East Indian love of spices. This "melting pot food" reflects Jamaica's

Motto, "Out of Many, One People". To this, we can happily add:

"Out of Many, the Jamaican Patty"



NCAFFA
NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN
FOOD & FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

Meet the Staff of the Embassy

DIPLOMATIC STAFF



Her Excellency **Audrey Marks**
Ambassador



Marsha Coore-Lobban
Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission/
Head of Chancery



Ariel Bowen
Minister-Counsellor - Trade and
Economic Affairs/ Diaspora Matters



Dameon Eunick
First Secretary/Consul - Consular Matters



Carol Gillies-Thompson
Accountant/Office Manager



DSP Oral Pascoe
Security Attaché



Charmaine Chong-Moulton
Administrative Attaché
Office of the Ambassador



Marsha Reid Walker
Administrative Attaché
Office of the Deputy Chief of
Mission

LOCALLY ENGAGED STAFF



Camray Yee

Asst. Office Manager



Judith Richards

Accreditations
Officer



Tiffany Brown

Consular Assistant



Aldena Davis

Receptionist



Sherene James

Social Affairs Assistant



Susil Abeysinghe

Ambassador's Chauffeur



Cornel Graver

Driver



Derrick Scott

Freelance Photographer

STAFF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (PROAS)

The Embassy/PROAS welcomes Mr. Deon Williams and Ms. Safia Bloomfield as of 1st August and bids farewell to Julia Hyatt and Damion Eunich



Julia Hyatt

Minister/Deputy Permanent
Representative



Ingrid Jaillier

Bilingual Assistant



Deon Williams

Minister/Deputy Permanent
Representative



Safia Bloomfield

First Secretary/Consul -
Consular Matters

Bon Voyage to Embassy Staff



As is customary in the Diplomatic Service, it is that time again when the Embassy in Washington D.C. will go through a period of the changing of the guard. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to our Senior Diplomatic officers whose tours of duty have either come to an end, or will end over the next few months. As they prepare to turn the pages to the other chapter of their respective careers, we salute and say a big thank you for their tremendous contribution to the work of the Missions and wish them well, as they depart. *Bon Voyage* my team!

Audrey Marks
Ambassador

Marsha Coore-Lobban

In normal diplomatic practice, it is not unusual that with a change of Administration, Ambassadors are rotated, or recalled. Over the course of 5 years, the Embassy has had three changes at the level of Head of Mission. These changes often come with challenges to maintaining consistency in the normal operations of the Embassy.

We pay tribute to Marsha Coore-Lobban, who, as the Deputy Chief of Mission, has been called upon to assume the role of Chargé, steering the ship afloat as the Embassy carried out its work in each transition period. Marsha's even-tempered and caring nature, as well as her general competence, secured the confidence of the staff and the Jamaican community alike.



From left to right: Marsha Coore-Lobban, Julia Hyatt, Ambassador Audrey Marks, Dameon Eunick, Ariel Bowen

Dameon Eunick

Dameon has brought a calm disposition to the customer-driven, consular department of the Embassy, which has been a hallmark of his successful tenure. In his own words, his experience at the Embassy is one of his most memorable experiences of his career.

He has worked hard to improve and update the quality of consular services offered to our clients.

Ariel Bowen

Over the past 5 years, Ariel has worked tirelessly to promote Jamaica's trade and investment agenda in the USA. Through her efforts, stronger relations have been made with key entities such as the US Chamber of Commerce, as well as the US Department of Commerce and the Office of the US Trade Representative.

A significant chunk of Ariel's portfolio has been her work with the Diaspora. During her tenure, the relationship between the Embassy and the Diaspora has been strengthened. She is credited with producing the Annual Embassy Journal, which has served as an important medium of communication with the Diaspora.

Julia Hyatt

Julia has served as Jamaica's alternate representative at the Organization of American States (OAS) for the last 4 years. Under her able guidance and support, Jamaica's interests and principles on several critical, and at times very sensitive matters, were expounded and upheld.

She has deservedly received high commendations and praises from her colleagues at the OAS, including the CARICOM Caucus.



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