



JAMAICANS TURN OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE

Just over 10,000 Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica converged on the gardens of the Organization of American States, downtown Washington, DC to celebrate Jamaica's 44th anniversary of Independence on Sunday, August 6 at the Independence Sunday Market hosted by the Jamaican Embassy.

The entire grounds of the OAS was converted into a grand market with over 30 booths carrying a variety of Jamaican products ranging from arts and crafts to a wide range of Jamaican cuisine. A number of Jamaican companies were on hand including the Jamaica Tourist Board, Air Jamaica, Jamaica National Building Society, Victoria Mutual, Western Union, Grace Kennedy, D&G and Delta Airlines.

Red Stripe, one of Jamaica's largest exporters to the United States, took the opportunity to launch its new 24oz bottle. The Red Stripe Ambassador presented Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Gordon Shirley, with the first 24oz bottle of Red Stripe which came off the assembly line in Jamaica on Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

The Independence Market brought the curtains down on the week of Independence activities in Washington, DC with thousands of

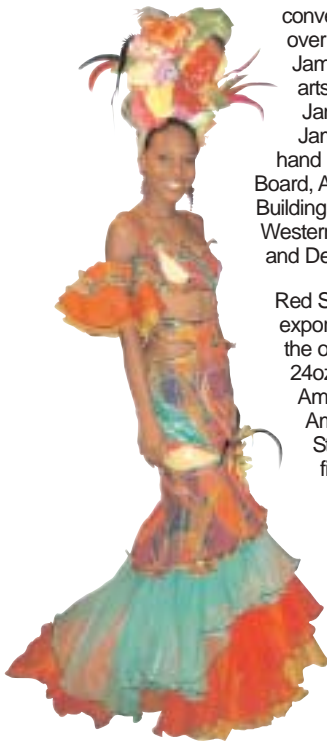
Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica dancing to the sounds of the Skatalites, Image Band and the Bare Essentials Band. The huge crowd was also entertained by Kymani Marley and Lovindeer who were both well received. The crowd was kept entertained by Emcee Jerry D and many had the opportunity to win giveaways such as airline tickets and hotel stays in Jamaica.

In his comments, Ambassador Shirley said that the Independence Market was designed to give Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaica a taste of the island as we celebrate Jamaica's 44th year of Independence.

Above: The crowd at the Independence Sunday Market on August 6, 2006 on the lawns of the Organization of American States, Washington, DC waving their flags to the sounds of Bare Essentials Band.

Left: Miss Jamaica World, Terri Karelle-Griffiths, at the Jamaican Nationals Association Independence Gala.

Below: Red Stripe Ambassador presents first 24oz. bottle of Red Stripe to Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Prof. Gordon Shirley, at the Independence Sunday Market.



JAMAICAN WOMEN OF WASHINGTON, INC. ORDINARY PRIVATE CITIZENS DOING PUBLIC GOOD

In its 4th year of operation, the Washington, DC-based philanthropic organization, *Jamaican Women of Washington, Inc. (JWoW)*, continues to make significant contributions to the health and social welfare of children, youth and families in Jamaica and the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Over the past four years, JWoW, Inc. has donated over US\$100,000 in funds to support the efforts of non-profit, community-based organizations in Jamaica and Washington, DC.

As active members of the Jamaican Diaspora community, the professional women of Jamaican heritage who make up JWoW have always been concerned about the alarming health care statistics and reports coming out of Jamaica and the Caribbean region, as well as the negative social impact and the obvious need for assistance. With that in mind, members made a strong commitment to pool their resources and expertise to work together to make "a sustainable impact on the lives of the underserved."

JWoW has focused its efforts on providing support for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, youth violence prevention, teenage pregnancy prevention and mental health

treatment. JWoW has also supported *My Sister's Place* in its fight to end violence against women in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, and the Jamaica Cancer Society in its efforts to address prostate cancer in Jamaica. JWoW has been able to provide assistance to address these and other issues through community outreach efforts, public education efforts and sponsoring fundraising events.

The upcoming Tee-Off Fore the Health of It- Golf Tournament and Business Development Symposium is scheduled for September 28, 2006 at the Hampshire Green Golf Course in Silver Spring, Maryland.

For more information about the Jamaican Women of Washington, and to learn about how you can support JWoW, participate in fundraising activities, and make contributions, please visit the website at www.jwow.org or write to:

Karen B. Francis, Vice President, JWoW, Inc.
Jamaican Women of Washington
1776 Eye Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006

Sam
view



'JAMERICANS' RECIEVE CONSUL GENERAL'S INDEPENDENCE 2006 HONOURS IN NEW YORK

The Grand Independence Ball celebrating Jamaica's 44th anniversary of nationhood took place on Saturday night, August 12, 2006 at the New York Hilton Hotel in midtown Manhattan. Against a backdrop of bright colours and island decor, the gala celebrations which lasted almost ten hours provided a fitting finale to an ambitious two-week schedule of events that criss-crossed the city starting on July 30, 2006.

Some 1,200 patrons decked out in their 'Sunday Best' and entranced by the importance of the occasion and the moment, listened as guest of honour and Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, repeated her call for partnerships from within the overseas Jamaican community in her drive to move the country's development agenda forward.

Prime Minister Simpson Miller said that such linkages were vital for her vision for literacy, early childhood education, rural development, agriculture and the fight against crime and violence. She said that as prime minister she will work for a unified Jamaica. "I have made it quite clear at home that I am for all the people," Prime Minister Simpson Miller said, noting that she was honoured for the opportunity to keynote the Independence Ball on her first tour of duty in New York City as prime minister.

R. Bryan who chairs the Jamaica Independence anniversary Committee (JIAC) later presented the Consul General's Independence Award for 2006 to eight deserving Jamaican Americans in acknowledgement of their professional achievements and exemplary community service.

The combination of Andrene Bonner (Evening Time) and Carlton James (Mento Music) remembered the late Hon. Louise 'Miss Lou' Bennett

Coverley. Entertainment was provided by Byron Lee & The Dragonaires Band. David "Squeeze" Annakie, CEO of Link Up Media and host of New York City Radio WRTN 93.5 FM, served as master of ceremonies.

From l-r; Six of the eight Jamaican Americans who received the Consul General's Independence Award for 2006 for their professional achievements and exemplary community service at the Grand Independence Ball held at the New York Hilton Hotel, Manhattan, on Saturday, August 12, 2006: Dr. Saleem Josephs ('06 Columbia University graduate, DDS, MPH, MBA); Patricia Chin (CEO, VP Records Distributors); Valrie Wilson (Healthcare International); Barbara Richards (UJAA, Inc); Minnel Porter (Giddy Hall Alumni Association); Amir A. M. Akbar (Founder/Director, CAPE). Missing: Ray Goulbourne (EVP, BET) and Paul Campbell (VP, Polo Ralph Lauren).



Valerie C. Beckley
Jamaica Diaspora
Advisory
Board Member
Midwest-West

THE JAMAICA DIASPORA: A MOVEMENT SYMBOLIZING THE PATRIOTISM AND PASSION

As the newly elected Jamaican Diaspora Advisory Board Member representing the Mid-West/West region of the United States, I bring greetings. As a second generation Jamaican born in the United States, I hold a Masters Degree in Social Work and bring over 20 years of leadership experience in strategic management and building multi-state networks and alliances. I am married, the mother of two children and an advocate for galvanizing people to make a difference.

As a Diaspora Advisory Board Member, I am responsible for addressing mandated resolutions coming out of the 2006 Jamaica Diaspora conference, coordinating activities throughout the Midwest and Western regions of the United States, and working with and advising the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade on

issues related to Jamaicans living in my region. My goals for the next two years are to mobilize Jamaicans living in the Midwest-Western Region, develop regional networks to galvanize the resources of those Jamaicans in areas of health, business, education, policy and the social and cultural life of Jamaica, and establish a communication network to dialogue about significant issues and concerns of the Diaspora community and the country of Jamaica.

The development of the Jamaican Diaspora is the first in a movement that is far bigger than any one entity has endeavored to undertake in a very long time. It is a movement about the blood that runs deep in each of us and the love we have for Jamaica. It is a movement that

should be about our passion to want to make a difference and it is a movement about the spirit of our ancestors who left us a legacy and a mandate to continue on with the Jamaican foundation that they built, lived and, in many instances, died for to make a better way for all of us.

If you are from the Midwest-West region and would like additional information, I can be contacted at:

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Marlon A. Hill, Esq.
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MARLON HILL TO ENCOURAGE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR JAMAICAN DIASPORA IN SOUTH

As the newly elected representative for the Jamaican Diaspora in the Southern United States, Marlon A. Hill is a product and reflection the Jamaican Diaspora personality. A past student of St. George's College, he migrated to Florida in 1985 at age 14 where he completed high school in Miami and attended college and law school at Florida State University. He presently practices corporate law as a founding partner of his own law firm, delancyhill, P.A.

At the recent Diaspora conference, delegates from the Southern United States elected Hill to lead the engagement and galvanization of Jamaicans in the following states: Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida.

Hill has outlined five short-term goals for his term. First, he plans to conduct a number of public awareness efforts to educate the public about the purpose and value of building the Jamaican Diaspora through community forums and appearances. Second, he expects to develop a regional leadership structure that synchronizes with other similar efforts in the Northeast and Midwest regions. Third, Hill hopes to further plans to enhance the administrative capacity of the Movement and to encourage more opportunities for existing organizations in the region to build their own capacity. Fourth, Hill intends to encourage more efforts to archive and celebrate the history and heritage of Jamaicans in the region. Finally, Hill endeavors to connect with and inspire first and second generation Jamaican youth to participate in the Movement.

Hill believes that the authentic purpose of the Jamaican Diaspora Movement is to harness the unrealized potential and talents of all Jamaicans living overseas, not only for the benefit of their local communities, but for the ultimate benefit of Jamaica's continued development.

To contact Marlon Hill or for more information:

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JAMAICAN CONSULATE IN MIAMI RAISES US\$4,000 FOR TWO CHARITIES

The Jamaica Consulate in Miami has raised nearly US\$4,000 to benefit the Swift Purcell Boys' Home in St. Mary and the Missionaries of the Poor. The funds are the proceeds from the annual Independence church service held last month in Fort Lauderdale.

Consul General Ricardo Allicock presented the money to the institutions when he visited the island on Friday, September 15, 2006. He praised nationals in South Florida for their

ongoing commitment to assisting the less fortunate in Jamaica.

Since 2003, the proceeds from the annual Independence church service have gone to the Swift Purcell Boys' Home to benefit some 75 boys from age six to 18 years. Several of the boys are enrolled in tertiary institutions, where they are pursuing studies in the arts, hospitality management, agricultural science and vocational programs.

IDB TO FUND PROJECTS IN JAMAICA

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through its Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), is looking to provide funding for a number of projects being undertaken by the Jamaica Business Development Centre (JBDC), which are aimed at providing support for the small business sector.

According to Executive Director of the JBDC, Harold Davis, the commitment came out of a meeting with Winsome J. Leslie, Project Specialist with the IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund, and Maureen Vernon, Senior Counselor, on August 8, 2006 at the IDB's headquarters in Washington, DC.

Davis told JIS News that the JBDC was pursuing partnership with the IDB with a view to establishing a mutual guarantee facility, and business incubation and information centres. Funding is also being sought to promote cultural industries, he said. Davis noted that the meeting with the IDB team was fruitful and the JBDC hoped to receive approval for financial and technical support for the projects very soon.

ATLANTA SISTER CITY HEALTH TEAM TO VISIT MONTEGO BAY

A team of forty medical practitioners, nurses and other volunteers will arrive in Montego Bay on Sunday, October 8, 2006 to conduct the thirteenth annual Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") health mission to that city. The delegation will be lead by Jamaica's Honorary Consul to Atlanta and Chairman of the Atlanta branch of the Committee, Hon. Vin Martin, Esq. and Dr. Karyn Cumberbatch, the mission's health director. The delegation will be met on arrival at the Donald Sangster International Airport by members of the local Committee, lead by its Chair, Metty Scarlett-Jones.

According to Martin, the mission will run from Monday, October 9 to Wednesday, October 11 at the St. John's Methodist Church hall. Martin stated that a large portion of the medicines to be donated to the patients will be purchased from Pharmaceutical companies in Jamaica, even though a quantity will be shipped in by the Committee to Jamaica in advance of their arrival.

Over the past twelve years the mission has served 30,000 patients in St. James and



Winsome J. Leslie, Project Specialist with Inter-American Development Bank Multilateral Investment Fund, center, meets with representatives of Jamaica Business Development Centre, at right, Robert Wright, JBD Advisor, Harold Davis, Executive Director JBD. At left is Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, Prof. Gordon Shirley, and Maureen Vernon, Senior Counselor, Inter-American Development Bank.

The JBDC's Executive Director along with Advisor, Robert Wright, paid a four-day visit to Washington, DC, where they also met with Ambassador to the United States, Prof. Gordon Shirley, and representatives of the Small Business Administration in the capital.

neighboring parishes. It is also estimated that during this period approximately JA\$35 million of medical supplies and services have been donated by the health committee. The visiting practitioners will be joined in Montego Bay by members of the Montego Bay Committee, several local physicians, nurses and scores of non-medical volunteers.

The mission is conducted under the auspices of the St. James Parish Council, is facilitated by the St. James Health Department, and is one of the major events that is staged to coincide with Montego Bay's celebration of its city status. Martin commended the officers and members of St. John's Methodist Church for allowing the use of the church hall over the past eleven years.

The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee is one of eighteen members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission with Mayor Shirley Franklin as its Honorary Chair. The Atlanta Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee is the oldest Caribbean group in the City of Atlanta.

For further information, please contact Hon. Vin Martin at 404-297-7696.

VOICE from the Diaspora

HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL

By Curtis A. Ward

The Jamaican Diaspora movement is not a new phenomenon. In the past, it has waxed and waned depending on the exigencies of the period. However, fuelled by the Jamaican Government's initiative to facilitate greater understanding of the Diaspora's value to nation-building, and its value to Jamaicans at home and abroad, the movement is being mobilized to realize its potential.

Now into its third year, the US-based Jamaican Diaspora movement (JDM) is poised to engage the vast amount of resources, knowledge and expertise which abound in the Jamaican community here in the United States. However, in order to achieve this, the JDM must develop, as a matter of priority, new and effective mechanisms and operational capacities. Let us move to action on these matters. Among the issues which warrant urgent attention and require broad cooperation and collaboration among, and between the JDM and the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) are the following:

- Establishing a mechanism specifically dedicated to framing issues of interest to the GoJ in its relationship with the Government of the United States and informing the JDM on these issues in a timely manner.

- Establishing a mechanism to provide timely information on investment opportunities in Jamaica to the JDM.

- Establishing a mechanism within the JDM to process, use and disseminate information provided to it in a timely and effective manner. This will require an up-to-date database and communication network, which includes dissemination through the US-based representatives of the GoJ and existing local Jamaican organizations across the United States.

Forging coalitions with the Caribbean Diaspora in the United States, and other supporting groups and individuals. It is of particular importance that the JDM always give special consideration to the common interests of the Caribbean Diaspora, and the advantages of working together in pursuing common interests and concerns in the Caribbean context.

The forgoing is not intended as an exhaustive list of the matters which should be dealt with immediately. It merely lays the foundation for the work ahead.

JAMAICAN ART EXHIBITION OPENS IN WASHINGTON, DC

One of the largest exhibitions of contemporary Jamaican art, with 44 pieces by fifteen artists of Jamaican heritage residing in the United States, opened Thursday, August 3, at the Art Museum of the Americas in Washington, DC. The exhibition presents Jamaica's rich, textured and varied cultural tradition and artistic talents in celebration of each anniversary of the island's independence.

The exhibition entitled *New Possessions* is being mounted in celebration of Jamaica's 44th year of independence. In declaring the exhibition open, Minister of Education Maxine Henry-Wilson said that, "The exhibition represents the diversity of the Jamaican personality." She pointed out that the exhibition is an indication that, "Jamaicans can stand firmly in any metropolitan environment and be as good as the best."

In his remarks, Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, Gordon Shirley, stated that by bringing together these fifteen artists with the leaders of Jamaica's art and culture community, key Government officials and members of the international organizations interested in this area, the exhibition creates an opportunity for a seminal dialogue on ways of enhancing the talent of the artists in the Diaspora for use in Jamaica's development.



Dr. Sarah Clunis, curator for the exhibition of contemporary Jamaican art, explains to Education Minister, Maxine Henry-Wilson, second from left, details about one of the 44 pieces that are on display at the Art Museum of the Americas in Washington, DC at the official opening on Thursday, August 3, 2006. Sharing in the occasion is Jamaica's Ambassador to the U.S., Prof. Gordon Shirley, left, and Prof. Rex Nettleford, Chairman of the Jamaica Diaspora Foundation.

Just over 600 guests including Ambassadors, Heads of Missions, and members of the Jamaican and Caribbean community attended the exhibit opening. The exhibition is sponsored by the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank's Cultural Center and the Inter-American Culture and Development Foundation, Jamaica National Building Society, and the Embassy of Jamaica. The exhibition will run until October 29, 2006.



Ms. Sharon Miller, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington, DC, addresses a group of over 30 international students who visited the Embassy recently. The students, representing 30 countries were part of a summer program visiting Washington, DC. The Embassy of Jamaica was selected as one of places of interest for the students to visit. Ms. Miller gave them an update on the country.

DIARY of EVENTS

Oct. 7
**National Coalition on Caribbean Affairs
9th Annual Awards Ceremony.**
Hilton Hotel, Silver Spring, MD.
Contact: Leopold Edwards: 301-962-3240

Oct. 14
**West Indian Foundation Inc. 28th
Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.**
Connecticut Convention Center,
Hartford, CT.
Contact: www.westindianfoundation.org

Oct. 15
**Association of Jamaicans in Richmond
Annual General Meeting.**
Caribbean Mingles Restaurant,
15 W Main St. (at Adams), Richmond, VA.
Contact: www.jamaicaassociation.org

Oct. 19
**American Friends of Jamaica 25th
Annual Jamaica Benefit Gala.**
Cipriani, 23rd Street, NY.
Contact: www.theafj.org

Oct. 21
WARR. Women at Real Risk Gala.
Washington Court Hotel,
Washington, DC.
Contact: Claudia Hudson: 202-421-8712

Oct. 28
**Jamaica Organization of New Jersey
6th Annual Awards of Excellence Dinner.**
Doubletree Hotel, Elizabeth, NJ.
Contact: Linval James: 201-259-8945

Oct. 28
**JNA/Embassy of Jamaica Student
Reception.** Washington, DC

Nov. 4
**Jamaica Social Club of Toledo Social
Club Dance and Awards Presentation.**
Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall,
Toledo, OH.
Contact: Earl Mitchell: 419-531-6954

Nov. 4
**Morant Bay High School Alumni
Association 20th Anniversary
Fundraiser Dinner Dance.**

Temple Emanu-el, Yonkers, NY.
Contact: Joyce Francis Marsh:
www.mbhsnyalumni.com

Nov. 11
**Jamaica Awareness Association of
California 20th Anniversary Scholarship
Awards Banquet.**
LAX Radisson Hotel, Los Angeles, CA.
Contact: Yasmin Facey:
www.jamaicaawareness.org

Dec. 2
**Children of Jamaica Outreach
Inc Annual Charity Ball.**
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
La Guardia Airport, NY.
Contact: Gary Williams: 718-523-0949

Dec. 9
**Caribbean Medical Mission 10th
Anniversary Dinner Dance.**
The Bethwood Manor,
38 Lackawanna Ave., Totowa, NJ.
Contact: Margaret Douglas:
973-373-3000,
www.caribbeanmedicalmission.org