

The Gleaner



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EDITION

58 STRONG



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Wishing Jamaica a Happy 58th Anniversary



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Jamaica will emerge 'resilient and strong'

INDEPENDENCE DAY – August 6 – has always been the most significant date on the national calendar in Jamaica and for Jamaicans residing overseas. Each year, we look forward to our vibrant celebrations, including national festival and gospel song competitions, Festival Queen and Farm Queen pageants, fireworks and the much-anticipated Grand Gala at the National Stadium. It is a time to celebrate and showcase the best from our deep reservoir of talents in every domain, while inspiring hope and unity.

Independence Day is also a time to reflect on the nation's journey from the era of slavery and colonialism to our achievement of full nationhood in 1962; and to chart our course forward.

This year's commemoration comes as the entire world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic that has left no area of the globe untouched, not even Jamaica. We have had just over 700 cases and 10 fatalities – very difficult especially for the families of the fallen or the stricken, but relatively minuscule compared to many other countries worldwide. But, thankfully, the Government of Jamaica has done a phenomenal job in containing the virus among the population.

Observance of our country's 58th anniversary of independence under the theme "Resilient and Strong: Let's celebrate Jamaica 58" is, therefore, quite opportune. Birthed out of centuries of struggle, our nation has long been accustomed to adversity. The ongoing



challenges are, therefore, no match for the strength and powerful resolve of the Jamaican people. I am confident that we will not only survive this ordeal, but we will thrive.

Many will recall the successes achieved by the Government of Jamaica in the last few years, in terms of macroeconomic stability: 20 quarters of modest growth or no economic contraction, decline in unemployment and inflation, and increased consumer confidence. Many of the gains have been eroded or risk

erosion by this sudden, invisible enemy of the last few months. One recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report cites Jamaica as one of the countries to suffer the greatest economic fallout from the closure of our tourism industry, to the tune of 11% of GDP.

To alleviate the negative impacts of our borders being closed and the economic slowdown, the Government provided stimulus packages, including to the unemployed and pensioners. With our borders now reopened and tourism and other key sectors back in business, we expect Jamaica will eventually emerge "resilient and strong".

My sincere appreciation to Jamaican diaspora members for their tremendous help, tangible and intangible, to fellow Jamaicans, especially those stranded in the United States after Jamaica's borders closed in March.

Let me also extend condolences to those grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19, and pray for speedy recovery for those still struggling.

Nonetheless, resilient and strong: let's celebrate Jamaica 58, as a people of steely resolve and tenacious Jamaican spirit. Despite these monumental challenges, I firmly believe we have a bright future ahead. Let us all join hands and hearts to make Jamaica a better place.

H.E. Audrey P. Marks, Ambassador of Jamaica to the USA and Permanent Representative to the OAS.

Work to create a promising future for all Jamaicans

THIS YEAR, Jamaica has the honour to celebrate its 58th independence anniversary under the theme "Resilient and Strong". The occasion affords us yet another opportunity to reflect and reaffirm that these are the distinct qualities that characterise the people of Jamaica.

As we gather to commemorate another significant milestone in our history, we recognise and express our deepest appreciation to our forefathers who were emboldened and determined to chart the future of Jamaica as an independent country. Their collective vision and efforts to dismantle the oppressive colonial system at the cost of personal safety and convenience, serve as inspiration to stand up for justice and uphold our fundamental freedoms.

The invaluable contributions of our formidable nation builders have been instrumental in moulding prolific and influential Jamaicans across all spheres of professional endeavours. Moreover, our vibrant culture and rich heritage, that have been shaped by a mosaic of nationalities, have uniquely positioned us as a true melting pot – so eloquently captured by our motto, "Out of Many, One People".

We should stand proud of our country for the countless achievements and strides we have made throughout our development trajectory. We continue to elevate our stature in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora, through our unmatched advocacy and diplomacy, in keeping with the spirit of collaboration, to advance our national agenda.

Jamaica, like other countries, acknowledges that, despite our accomplishments, much work remains to be done. In this regard, we are committed to strengthening our resolve to improve areas of deficiencies and notable gaps, as we accord the highest priority for Jamaica to become the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

For many of us, 2020 has so far proven to be quite a challenging year. Notwithstanding, let us remain undeterred by the setbacks and disappointments, with a renewed sense of determination and purpose. It is, therefore, incumbent on us to remain optimistic, seize available opportunities, leverage our talents and, most important, work together to create a promising future for all Jamaicans.

Happy Jamaica 58 to a resilient and strong people.

Nicole Johnson, Jamaican Consul to Toronto.



Success and abundance to all Jamaicans!

AS we commemorate the 58th anniversary of our Independence, Jamaicans at home and abroad will once again reflect on the tremendous contributions of our fellow Jamaicans, past and present, who paved the way towards the birth of an independent Jamaica.

We will also call to mind our continued relentless pursuit of socio-economic prosperity. With hearts full of pride and joy, we will celebrate our nation's great attributes, most notably our resilience, warmth and generosity of spirit.

Under the theme: "Resilient and Strong", we have an opportunity to highlight our achievements and advancements in sectors such as health and education, infrastructure development, agriculture, international relations, tourism, music, culture and entertainment and housing and investment opportunities.

The world is confronting a global pandemic, COVID-19, which has impacted our usual activities, our lives, and our livelihoods. As we observe the 'Emancipendence' period, the limitations brought by the pandemic will no doubt affect how we can celebrate.



It is customary for us to observe the traditional festivities around this time, which often have at their core large gatherings, vibrant songs and dances and great culinary delights. For our continued health and safety, and that of our loved ones, regrettably, we will not be able to celebrate at the scale and magnitude to which we are accustomed.

In this current pandemic, we are responding with resilience and strength. We are counted among the countries which have successfully implemented policies which have served to control the spread of the disease, based on the fundamental principles of public health.

The approach taken by the Government has been characterised as agile and coordinated. This approach is consistent with our mission to balance lives and livelihoods, and is testament to the fact that we are accustomed to innovation and creative responses to challenges.

As the country looks beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and tackles its socio-economic impact, Jamaica's strong

SUCCESS

CONTINUED FROM 2

relationship with its global partners will continue to support recovery and sustain the positive path towards growth and development.

To all who have experienced loss, please accept my sincere condolences. To those in recovery, I wish you a speedy recovery and return to normalcy.

Allow me to wish success and abundance to all Jamaicans, near and far, and that each of you realizes your true potential. I am confident that we will recover quickly and that we will remain resilient and strong as long as we stand together.

Happy 58th Independence Jamaica, One Love!

Alston Roach Wilson, OD Consul General of Jamaica to New York.



CG Mair. CONTRIBUTED

‘We are truly a blessed people’

ON BEHALF of the Consulate General of Jamaica, it is my distinct pleasure to extend warm Independence greetings to fellow Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica as we join in the spirit of goodwill to celebrate another milestone of our nation's history, the 58th anniversary of Independence.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Jamaica 58 Resilient and Strong". It is therefore an opportune time to reflect upon the sacrifices of our forebearers who laid the foundation for our independent spirit. Let us honour the strength and vigour of our National Heroes, our national leaders, our scholars and cultural ambassadors, who paved the way to Jamaica achieving her independence.

With the global challenge facing us today, we are encouraged to use this time to unite, to continue their efforts. But we will have to begin thinking differently as we are now in the new digital age. Every crisis presents an opportunity, and this crisis is an opportunity for new thinking, a challenge for inspiration and a positive outlook; not for the negatives. As Jamaicans, we have that indomitable spirit to always strive for the best whether at home or abroad. Let us unite in the same vein but with a new level of thinking,

creativity and energy that will move us further ahead.

With the national theme, we have created events over the period reflecting "Eight (8) Days of Independence" to guide our focus on economic building, exposing our rich culture and heritage, and embracing a new approach towards health awareness. Jamaicans across the Diaspora are invited to join us virtually in the Southern United States to celebrate our colourful history, our achievements and contribution to the global community.

Let me express profound gratitude to all Jamaicans who have selflessly stepped up with generosity of spirit in contributing to our people at home and abroad during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are truly a blessed people.

As we celebrate with friends and family, let us reaffirm our pledge to rebuild not only our nation, but a world strong and resilient under God.

"JAMAICA 58 RESILIENT AND STRONG"

*R. Oliver Mair
Consul General
Southern USA, Bahamas, Cayman Islands*



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Garfield A. Comrie

GARFIELD ANDREW St Legger Comrie is the Caribbean marketing consultant, NE/USA, with GraceKennedy Remittance Ltd, since 1997.

His remit covers Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Cayman, Bahamas, Montserrat, Anguilla, the BVIs, Antigua, St Kitts and Nevis and Haiti.

Prior to joining GraceKennedy, Comrie held account manager positions at Barita Investments Ltd, and Security Brokers Ltd, with responsibility for company listings on the Jamaica Stock Exchange.

Comrie is a philanthropist who strongly believes in giving back to his home country.

He is a member of the Lions United Sports Club and Munro/Hampton Association USA/NE.

He has two beautiful children, Parris-Jade and Nathaniel.

MEET THE JAMAICANS

The North American diaspora is home to thousands of Jamaicans who continue to excel in every sphere of endeavour, giving Brand Jamaica an enviable position in the global space. In the arts, sciences and humanities, Jamaicans are at the top of their game. On the occasion of the 58th anniversary of Jamaica's Independence, **The Gleaner/NA** edition is proud to showcase 58 outstanding Jamaicans from all facets of society.



Hon Norman O. Hemming, III

NORMAN O. Hemming, III is chief federal administrative law judge who oversees Title II and Title XVI cases under the Social Security Act. Previously, Hemming served as special counsel to the United States attorney with the United States Department of Justice.

He has a theology degree from Shiloh Theological Seminary in Stafford, Virginia, and is an ordained minister. He serves on the Pastor's Council of Cooper City Church of God. Hemming previously served on the Vice-Provost Council for Florida International University, which raises and distributes scholarships to students of FIU who are first in their family to attend college.

A Jamaica College alum, he serves on the Diversity Committee for Broward County School Board.



Fabian Coverley

FABIAN COVERLEY has worked in the fire detection industry for 50 years, with services in Canada, Kuwait, the USA, the UK, Africa and Europe.

A former broadcast engineer in Jamaica and Canada, he has a Bachelor of Theology from the Radio College of Canada at Centennial College and York University.

The CEO of Coverley Holdings Inc. and director/consultant of International Agencies Management Inc., he has also established the Louise Bennett Coverley Foundation to maintain the legacy of his parents, Louise Bennett and Eric Coverley.

He has been married for 46 years to Olive, has three sons, Clayton, Craig and Jamie, and a granddaughter, Caylen.

Rackelle Lynch
US NAVY

RACKELLE LYNCH was born in Wilmington, Delaware, to a Jamaican mother and a Puerto Rican father. After high school (Mount Pleasant) and college (Morgan State University), she enlisted with the United States Navy in 2010, and is currently stationed in Naples, Italy.

Petty Officer Third Class Lynch has the added distinction of passing the 'Boards' on her first try in her division, and is a veteran of the Iraq War. Her passion is to give back to women who have served in the military.

Her YouTube programmes document life on the front lines during the pandemic in Italy, a moment in time she will never forget.

Rackelle rocks!



Sabrina HoSang Jordan
RCB/CFD

SABRINA HOSANG Jordan is the CEO of Caribbean Food Delights. She is a young business leader who is recognised among her peers as a model team builder and motivator.

Under her leadership, Caribbean Food Delights secured the largest 'New York Empire State Development Grant' of 2018, in the amount of \$2.75 million. She is currently working with her team to develop expansion plans.

Sabrina is director of the Vincent HoSang Family Foundation, a member of a few non-profit boards in the community, and the Ernst & Young LLP Entrepreneur of the Year, 2019.

She was recently appointed to the New York Governor's Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board.

Patricia Chin
VP RECORDS

PATRICIA CHIN, OD, is the co-founder of VP Records, the largest independent reggae label in the world. VP Records has been integral in spreading Caribbean music and culture globally, with its expansive roster of top reggae, dancehall and soca artistes.

Chin was born in Jamaica to Chinese and Indian parents. Patricia and her husband Vincent 'Randy' Chin opened the doors of Randy's Records, considered a foundation of the island's popular culture. In 1979, the family moved to Jamaica, Queens, New York.

Chin's leadership of VP Records includes the not-for-profit community work done through the Vincent and Patricia Foundation.

Her life and accomplishments are celebrated in an upcoming book titled **Miss Pat - My Reggae Music Journey**.



Marcia Harris
MD

MARCIA A. Harris, MD, LHD (Hons), graduated from Glenmuir High School in Jamaica, Pace University and Columbia University Medical College in the US. She trained in internal medicine at Harlem Hospital and ob/gyn at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell campus.

She has maintained a private medical practice for more than 40 years and was on staff as an instructor at Cornell Medical College. Dr Harris was a member of the Les Brown Platinum Speakers network, and a frequent guest on major news television shows and the local Caribbean radio shows.

A published author, she has also been featured in several magazines, including **Essence**, and was conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Pace in 1993.

She currently directs an anti-aging and sexual wellness centre, sings in a gospel choir, and travels with her 11-year-old granddaughter, Dylan Olyvia.

Happy 58th Independence Jamaica

Celebrating Jamaicans at home and abroad



We are truly a creative and independent people.

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Yvette Blackburn

THROUGH HER extensive work in education, race relations, social justice, politics and labour relations, Yvette Blackburn has made her mark as an astute leader and social justice advocate.

She holds a Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Political Science from the University of Windsor.

Blackburn has been a counsellor and educator for more than 26 years, working professionally with diverse groups of people, corporations and institutions.

Her wide array of skills in facilitation, training, equity, diversity, and more underpins her goal to always aid her community in all facets.

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council – Canada representative is also an active member of many organizations.



Judith A. Gayle

BORN IN Clarendon, Jamaica, Judith A. Gayle is a prime example of God's ability to transform brokenness to wholeness, a life of despair to a life of divine purpose.

She moved to New York, graduating from Canon University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology in 2014, the same year she was ordained a minister. Add author, humanitarian and entrepreneur to her impressive portfolio.

A multi-award-winning artiste, Judith has been churning out great gospel music over the years, putting her in the top echelons among her peers.

For this woman of God, minister/ambassador, a deep and abiding focus on life by faith, matters!



Dr Keith Grant

CAPTAIN KEITH Grant is the senior system director of infection prevention for Hartford Healthcare in Connecticut. A graduate of Mannings School in Westmoreland, Grant joined the US Military (Air Force) in 2014, and is now a 'flight doc'.

As an infection prevention expert and leader, he designs programmes and implements strategies, and credits his good fortune to a very supportive family in Jamaica and here in the USA. His wife, Shifali and children Arianna and Aryan are his biggest motivation.

"I enjoy sports and helping people and I have been lucky enough to be in positions where I have been able to," he said.



Barrington A. Harvey Sr

BARRINGTON A. Harvey Sr is a licensed biology and general sciences educator with the New York City Department of Education. He is a member of The New York Academy of Sciences and the National Science Teaching Association. He was recognised as the United Way of New York City Community Achievement Project in the Schools (CAPS) Science Talent Initiative Grant Awardee for three consecutive years: 2004, 2005 and 2006, as well as the March of Dimes Nelson Rosenthal Grant Awardee in 2004.

Harvey is a badminton and indoor track coach with the New York City Public School Athletic League and was honoured as Harlem Children Society (HCS) Teacher of the Year for 2015.

He is faculty mentor, Kingsborough Community College Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), 2014-2018, and has served as president of the Cornwall College Old Boys' Association of New York (CCOBANY), since 2013.

Karen Mitchell

KAREN MITCHELL is CEO/owner of True Indian Hair (TIH), franchisee of True Hair Company. She began her hair journey 15 years ago, after she noticed a lack of women and minority owners in the lucrative hair industry.

Mitchell's hard work has propelled TIH to the forefront of the beauty industry, as seen in major magazines and her roster of celebrity clients, including Rihanna, Taraji P. Henson, Mary J. Blige, Kelly Rowland, Justine Skye, Naomi Campbell, as well as the everyday fabulous woman.

She recently launched TIH Moisture Rich, a product line of shampoos and conditioners, and a line of wigs in partnership with Reality TV Star, Marlo Hampton.

Mitchell is owner/operator of a restaurant and retail wine store in Brooklyn and a proud Jamaican woman who wears many hats.



Joy Stephenson -Laws

JOY STEPHENSON-LAWS was named honorary consul of Jamaica in Los Angeles in early 2020. In this role, she promotes the interests of Jamaica, its businesses and citizens in the Southwestern United States.

Stephenson-Laws is founding and managing partner of Stephenson, Acquistio & Colman (www.sacfirm.com), the healthcare industry's premier litigation firm. A passionate advocate for healthcare issues, she also is the founder of Proactive Health Labs (www.phlabs.org), a national non-profit health education organization.

Stephenson-Laws, an avid golfer, has worked to introduce the sport to children living in inner-city communities in Jamaica.



Albert Robinson

FOLLOWING ON his son's diagnosis in 1974, Albert Robinson devoted his life to advising, advocating for, and representing the health and social needs of children and families with sickle cell Disease (SCD).

He migrated to the USA from Jamaica at a time of great turbulence when marginalised groups were fighting for equality and social justice.

He became a union representative in the 1199 SEIU, and is the current chair and leader for retirees of the George Gershon Chapter of 1199 in Orlando, Florida. He is an MPO for candidates endorsed by the union. You may connect and listen to host Albert on JR Radio 1 via the App.



Gopal M. Burgher

GOPAL M. Burgher is a distinguished corporate attorney and the founder/managing partner of BurgherGray LLP, a Wall Street corporate law firm with offices in NYC, DC, Miami and Chicago.

A native of St. Thomas, Burgher earned a BA from SUNY @Fredonia and a JD from NYU School of Law. He started his legal career at the prestigious global law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP.

Burgher's deep commitment to serving his community has manifested itself over the years in his support of, and service to, various charitable organizations such as AFUWI, Professional Jamaicans for Jamaica, JAMPACT, Jamaica's Promise Foundation and the Fredonia College Foundation (he is current board member).

He is admitted to the New York Bar.

Judge Jackie Powell

THE VOTERS of Broward County elected Jackie Powell as county court judge in November 2018. She currently serves as a county court judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit in Florida, and is the first Jamaican-American female elected to the bench in Broward County.

Powell earned a bachelor's degree in English from Florida Atlantic University and a Juris Doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center.

In Jamaica, she attended Franklin Town Primary and Camperdown High schools. In 2019, she was inducted into the Camperdown High School Hall of Flame.

Justice Powell is married to her husband of 30 years. The couple has two children and one grandchild.



Janice McIntosh

AS CHIEF representative officer (CRO) for the JN Bank Representative Office in Florida, Janice McIntosh has been actively involved in the Jamaican community in Florida for more than 10 years.

She sits on the Jamaica/USA Chamber of Commerce Board, is a former member of the FIU Alumni Board, Jamaica Legacy Foundation; past president of ICHS Alumnae; and is a founding member of the Jamaican Women of Florida.

In February 2012, the JN Representative Office received a proclamation from the Broward County Commissioner's office for its invaluable service to the community. In 2014, Janice was conferred with the influential Lauderhill Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award.



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- The deceased did not leave a Will (that is, died intestate);
- The deceased left children under the age of 18 years; and
- There are assets in the estate such as property, bank accounts, insurance policies, shares, motor vehicle, NHT Contribution Refund

In order to process the report of a death, we will require the following from you:

- 1.** A properly completed Form of Particulars (FP) witnessed by a Justice of the Peace or Notary Public. (The FP is available at our offices and on our website at www.agd.gov.jm)
- 2.** Original Death Certificate
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- 4.** Proof of assets belonging to the deceased including bank passbooks, land ownership documents (eg. duplicate Certificates of Title and Common Law Conveyance), share certificates, motor vehicle documents, insurance policies, certificates of deposit
- 5.** Funds towards administration expenses, if no cash is left by the deceased

An Instrument of Administration will be issued by the Agency within three (3) months of all the required documents being submitted. This Instrument allows the Administrator-General to administer the estate.

Before reporting the death, you can call our office for any further information that you may need:

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JAMAICA INDEPENDENCE 58

A nation is born

JUST BEFORE midnight on August 5, 1962, the British Union Jack was lowered and the Jamaican flag raised for the first time, marking Jamaica's

independence and the dawn of a new era.

The national parade, flag-raising ceremony and fireworks were held

at the National Stadium, with the evening's events beginning at 11 p.m. More than 20,000 people gathered at the venue for the night's celebrations.

At one and a half minutes to midnight, the first verse of the British anthem was played. The lights on the 60-foot pylons were put out and darkness descended upon the arena.



Alexander Bustamante the Premier, greets Princess Margaret on her arrival from London at the Palisades International Airport this morning for Jamaica's Independence Celebrations. Her Husband, Lord Snowdon (in morning coat) awaits his turn with outstretched hand to be greeted by the Premier. At extreme left is the Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne. GLEANER PHOTOGRAPH

In the hush that followed, the Union Jack, which waved over Jamaica for 307 years, was hauled down. Then, 30 seconds to midnight, the lights came on again and the Jamaican flag was raised to the top of the flagpole. Then, both verses of the national anthem were played.

At the ceremony were the governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, Jamaica's first governor general, his wife, Lady Blackburne, and Jamaica's premier, Sir Alexander Bustamante, who was later sworn in as prime minister.

Also present were Princess Margaret, who was representing the Queen, and her husband, the Earl of Snowdon.

There were also dignitaries from many countries such as the United States, Australia, Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

FIRST GOVERNMENT

The Jamaica Labour Party formed the first government of independent Jamaica, having beaten the People's National Party by polling 72.88 per cent of the voters in the election that was held on April 10, 1962. This was after the Jamaican people voted against joining the West Indies Federation in 1961.

August 5, 1962 was the national day

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With its mantra 'I Am My Brother's Keeper', Big 7 Promotions strives to meet the needs of corporate clients and provide all guests with efficient service and sincerity.

The commitment of the entire team has enabled the company to continue its quest for excellence.



Members of the Big 7 Promotions team. CONTRIBUTED



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Delia Farquharson

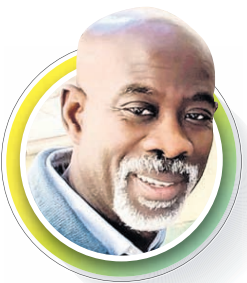
- CITY COUNCILWOMAN
- MOUNT VERNON

COUNCILWOMAN DELIA Farquharson is a licensed clinical social worker with a postgraduate degree (MSW) from Columbia University. She was elected to the Mount Vernon City Council in 2018, and previously served on the school board. Farquharson says she is committed to improving the plight of others and working tirelessly in many capacities in the community.

Her service record includes early activism in high school, where she was part of the student government, president of the Key Club and was elected the student representative on the school board.

Raised by an adoring grandmother who cared for her while her mother completed a nursing degree, Farquharson says she has always had a strong will and an independent spirit.

She is married with two adult children.



Baldwin McIntosh

MHSAA

BORN IN St James, Baldwin McIntosh migrated to the USA in the '80s. He's passionate about giving back to his various communities. An IT director and co-founder of MoBay Bear Mountain reunion, he is also president of the NY chapter of the Malden High Alumni Association and youth soccer coach.

He says only his love for family and friends comes close to rivalling his philanthropic efforts.

Charles A. Murray

A GRADUATE of Northeastern University, an engineer and former COO of a Fortune 1000 company, Charles Murray is the recipient of several business and engineering excellence awards, including the Global Crossing President's Club.

This proud father of three owns a facilities-based communications company, iNET Communications, and, for more than 25 years, has been committed to the Morant Bay High School Alumni Association's (NY Chapter) outreach, in providing scholarships and support for students in need.

Most recently, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, his alumni team secured Zoom licences and dispatched care packages to the school.



Andrew Clarke

ANDREW CLARKE founded Braata Productions in 2009, to bring creative and authentic Caribbean folk culture into prominent spaces through music, stories, movement, and theatre. His challenge was to achieve greater recognition for the inherent beauty of Caribbean art and its larger influence on current culture.

Braata, he says, gives space and voice to the immigrant experience, and provides a platform for Caribbean performers, writers, and directors.

Eleven years in, Braata Productions continues to serve inter-generational audiences in the five boroughs of NYC, with accessible, high-quality events that allow them to connect with Caribbean culture, through three primary programmes: Braata Theatre Workshop, Braata Folk Singers and Braata Education & Outreach.



Ann-Marie Grant AFUWI

ANN-MARIE GRANT is the executive director of the American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI), a non-profit organization which supports growth and development of The University of the West Indies (UWI), recently ranked in the top 100 of universities in the world, with locations in 17 countries across the Caribbean.

Under her stewardship, the portfolio of scholarship recipients has grown exponentially to an average of 50 tuition scholarships annually.

A graduate of the UWI, she has earned a reputation as a visionary with exceptional leadership, people and public relations skills and is recognised for her accomplishments.

Grant is passionate about life and its endless possibilities.



Charmming Avery

CHARMMING Avery is a seasoned agent for over 20 years, specializing in Medicare Supplements and Medicare Advantage Products for seniors and individuals with permanent disability.

Her leadership skills, as well as her sales acumen, have earned her the prestigious awards as Top Strategies 1 Producer in 2001, with Mutual of Omaha and Top Producer in 2013, with Amerigroup, New York.

She is the co-founder and president of Jamaica Communities Development Organization (JACDO), USA, a non-profit organization headquartered in Brooklyn, that focuses on youth empowerment.

Under her leadership, JACDO, USA has provided scholarships for students in underserved communities in Jamaica.



Dr Collin M. Wolfe

DR COLLIN M. Wolfe is a New York City-based administrator with more than three decades of recognised leadership and experience in the fields of education and strategic consulting.

Dr Wolfe's work has empowered the development of transformative techniques in student learning and instruction, and has propelled him to the cutting edge of his craft.

Born in the mountain region of Manchester, Jamaica, Dr Wolfe has never forgotten his humble roots and owes much of his success to the values he learned while there.

His commitment to the success of marginalised children serves as an eloquent testimony to the faith, integrity, and character of this great Jamaican scholar.

His passion for education is exceeded only by his love for God and family.



Carol Yvette Thorney

CAROL YVETTE Thorney is president/CEO of Thorney Executive Advisors, based in Connecticut. Thorney has more than 20 years of experience in consulting and enabling organizations to drive more seamless customer experience through re-imagined business models that enhance internal productivity and culture transformation.

Thorney has held a variety of senior management positions with multinational corporations at the forefront of development of innovation and incubation of new growth models in the healthcare industry.

She speaks frequently on the topics of leadership, healthcare, life science and quality outcomes, business process outsourcing (BPO), technology innovation and transformation, and delivered the UTech commencement address in 2004.



Apostle Dr Cecil G. Riley

APOSTLE DR Cecil George Riley, an anointed televangelist, pastor, activist, community leader and liaison officer, is the chief prelate of the Freedom Hall Churches of God, located in New York, Florida, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

He currently pastors the Brooklyn branch of the ministry and is popularly known in the diaspora as the philanthropic leader and teacher who builds bridges across all barriers.

Born in Jones Town, Kingston, Apostle Riley joined the Jamaica Constabulary Force and rose to the rank of corporal, before migrating to the USA, where he studied theology at the IBC & Seminary, California.

He is married to international gospel artiste Eleanor Riley and is the father of two beautiful daughters, Elizabeth and Esther.

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On the Anniversary of our Independence, **JN Group** stands with all Jamaicans at home and abroad.

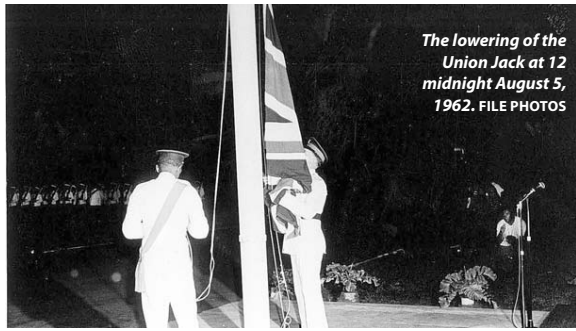
Our 58th year as an independent nation comes at a testing moment in history, but our resilient spirit has always won over adversity.

We will emerge triumphant, proud and with more resolve to celebrate our freedom.



We'll help you find a way!





The lowering of the Union Jack at 12 midnight August 5, 1962. FILE PHOTOS

NATION

CONTINUED FROM 8

held on April 10, 1962. This was after the Jamaican people voted against joining the West Indies Federation in 1961.

August 5, 1962 was the national day of prayer. As such, dedication services were held in every church in the island, with the following two days being public holidays. On August 6, there were further celebrations across the island and August

7 marked the opening of Parliament for independent Jamaica. There was also an Independence state banquet. On the same day, there were also numerous street dances. For the period, approximately 100 street concerts were organised by the JCDC. There was a fisherman's regatta on every beach.

The national float parade was held on August 11. More than 5,000 people participated in the giant parade, with about 90 floats. The parade started in Cross Roads and went down Slipe Road, east at Torrington Bridge, around North

Race Course Road, down East Race Course Road, down East Street, went into Harbour Street and up King Street.

The parade was led by Miss City of Kingston, Mitsy Constantine.

Effigies of Louise Bennett, Ranny Williams, and Alexander Bustamante were also present.

In addition, The Gleaner Company and N.V. Phillips of London made ten 23-inch television sets available for the viewing of the celebration at Victoria Park, Kingston.

Leading up to the celebrations, certain key things had to be finalised. The design of the flag was chosen through a collaborative effort by government officials. The motto, 'Out of many, one people', was chosen by Legislature in 1962. The national anthem was written by Reverend Hugh Sherlock, while the music was provided by Robert Lightbourne. The national symbols were chosen by a select committee in the Jamaica Horticultural Society.

Since that time, a few things have changed. After the flag-raising ceremony in 1962, there was a much smaller celebration for the anniversary of Independence in 1963.

But in 1964, a structured Jamaica Festival began, where there was a parade as well as a showcase of arts.

In 1997, when Emancipation Day was introduced as a national holiday on August 1, celebrations started from July 31 and ended on Independence Day, August 6. As time progressed, Jamaica Festival was separated from the Jamaica Festival of the Arts.

Published July 28, 2011



This is Jamaica's Flag - June 22, 1962.



August 8, 1962 Front Page - Jamaica Celebrates Independence.

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Alsion Roach Wilson CG

BORN AND raised in St. Catherine, Jamaica, Alsion Roach Wilson is currently Jamaica's eleventh (11) consul general to New York, having been appointed in July 2019. She assumes the responsibilities for Jamaica's nationals and interests for 33 states within the United States, as well as Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

A former Bear Stearns executive, CG Wilson is the past president and chief executive officer of The Alsion Roach Group, LLC (ARG), and the director of finance at Greylock Capital Management LLC (and related entities).

In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and work in philanthropy, CG Wilson is the recipient of numerous honours, awards and citations from corporate, civic and city government entities, including the Order of Distinction (OD) from the Government and people of Jamaica, last year.



Sadie Aarons Campbell

THE PRESIDENT and members of the Jamaica Progressive League extend warm congratulations to the Government and people of Jamaica as they celebrate 58 years of Independence.

The league, long-revered for its stance on fair and humane immigration policies and practices, has added to its accomplishments the establishment of a library/museum dedicated to Jamaican culture, and, most recently, a food pantry that serves the community's needs. In 2019, in honour of its 83rd anniversary, NYC Council bestowed a prestigious award on the league by co-naming Light Street in the Bronx, Jamaica Progressive League Way.

The evidence that the splintering of Jamaican groups has seriously diluted the Jamaican prominence in the community is concerning says Campbell, but she is determined to reverse this trend. The 'quiet storm', as President Campbell is referred to in some circles, is mission-driven and vows to continue the formidable task of nation-building for Jamaica.



Dr Rupert Green

DR RUPERT Green is an educator who has long been engaged in activism and philanthropic activities. His 40 years of beneficence include helping needy Jamaican students at Balmagie Primary, St. Patrick's/Waterhouse.

His 'Green activism' in the Mount Vernon, NY school system led to the appointment of Mt Vernon's first Black superintendent.

His recent activism led to his firing from the NYC school system (in 2016) for exposing miseducation from racism. He is currently challenging the NYC Department of Education in federal court. He is hampered by funds, threat of foreclosure, and a host of pathologies activists face. He would appreciate help from fellow Jamaicans and friends.

Dr Green (917) 601 6425; educateme5@yahoo.com



Madonna Williams

MADONNA WILLIAMS, aka Diva with a capital 'd', is the owner of Glamsense Divas Beauty Bar, and the founder of the Image Entertainment Distinction (IED) Award Show. She describes herself as 'driven and dedicated with a true passion for leadership, style, and philanthropy'. A celebrity stylist, publicist, blogger, and radio host, she is a woman who exemplifies her own motto, "Why blend in when you were born to stand out?"

From the ghetto of Swallowfield in Kingston, Jamaica, to the Grammy Red Carpet, her celebrity friends and clients make her a very influential person in the community.

Madonna understands what poverty is, and has supported several charities. She is currently working on sponsoring five children in Jamaica to help them through high school.

"We have to teach people how to fish, instead of giving them a fish, that's how we will eradicate poverty," she says. Find her at; @glamsensedivasbeautybar

Denise D. Grant COMMISSIONER

DENISE D. Grant is a first-term commissioner for City of Lauderhill, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a predominantly Afro-Caribbean constituency since November 2018.

Hailing from the parish of Manchester in Jamaica, Grant worked as a director of business development at a Florida law firm. She is a member of the Sister Cities International, Women Intended For Excellence (WIFE), Urban League of Broward Young Professional Network and the Jamaica Ex-Police Association, Florida.

As commissioner of a diverse community, she sponsored Resolution #20R-06-99, on June 8, 2020, supporting the Black Lives Matter initiative against police brutality and racial disparity.

The resolution is hailed as a very important one to the residents of the City of Lauderhill and our entire nation.



Cheryl J. Kerr

JAMAICA-BORN CHERYL Kerr heads Ontario's only Black female-owned and operated, full-service rehabilitation company, Medex Health Services, catering to a diverse client base.

A philanthropist and community advocate, Kerr is dedicated to supporting organisations that provide service and care to those who are less fortunate.

She is the 2020 recipient of The Black Business and Professional Association's Harry Jerome Business Award and 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women Honoree. Recognised by the RBC Champions for Women Entrepreneurs in 2006, she also received The National African American Insurance Association Award in 2007. She has established a distinguished reputation with various professional organisations, including the Ontario Brain Injury Association, The Brain Injury Association of York Region, The Canadian Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, the Canadian Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Association, and The National Association of Business Women.



Irwin G. Clare, Sr OD

IRWIN G. Clare, Sr, OD is the co-founder and managing director of the Caribbean Immigrant Services, Inc. (CIS), which was established in 1995. His involvement in the field of US Immigration is quite exemplary, and his agency has been credited with helping thousands of Caribbean nationals obtain US citizenship.

Clare is founder/CEO of Team Jamaica Bickle (TJB), an organization that assists athletes, coaches and officials from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean who participate in the annual Penn Relays Carnival in Philadelphia.

On October 15, 2012, Clare, Sr was conferred with the Order of Distinction by the Government of Jamaica, for his "invaluable contribution to Jamaicans in the diaspora".

His media credentials include: host of IRIE JAM Radio popular talk programmes 'Moving Forward' (Wednesdays) and 'Fact of the Matter' (Sundays). He is a former advisory board Member for the Jamaica Diaspora USA, Northeast.



Kadene Chambers

KADENE CHAMBERS is the founder and creative force behind Bia Productions, a company with a mandate to provide video programmes and events that inspire and impact the lives of those who watch or attend them. Bia Productions' events - be they corporate, private, or public, offer guests a path and methods to live a more 'whole' life.

Chambers has successfully managed events with more than 20,000 patrons, and events with hundreds of thousands of US dollars in revenue.

This inspiring woman has both a BA and MS in Psychology and has completed a Certified Project Management programme to round out her skill set to be the exceptional woman she is today.

Dr Karren Dunkley GJDC-USA/NE

EDUCATION ENTREPRENEUR, influencer, and social justice activist, Dr Karren Dunkley is an alumna of St. Catherine and Wolmer's Girls high schools. She works passionately to address issues such as early literacy, health, youth leadership, and economic development/empowerment.

Dr Dunkley is the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) representative for the Northeast, USA. Her recently expanded business portfolio includes Spiritz of Montego Bay.



Dr Binzie Roy Davidson

DR ROY Davidson, a healthcare entrepreneur, educator and community development advocate, migrated to California in 1986.

He is a graduate of Church Teachers College and was awarded a Jamaica Commonwealth Scholarship to university in Australia. He later attended university in the United States, earning a BA, MBA and a Doctorate in Health and Business.

Dr Davidson is the founder of Santa Clarita Home Health (1990-2015) and the current CEO/president of UNI Healthcare (2003), with a workforce of more than 500 and \$50 million in revenue.

Dr Davidson is a past president/board member of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO), Jamaican American Association of California (JAAC) and the Caribbean Cricket Club, and a multiple awardee for his work as a humanitarian, philanthropist and change agent.

He is a married father of three teenage sons.



Marie Clarke Walker

FOR NEARLY four decades, Marie Clarke Walker has been a distinguished voice for equity and a fairer workplace within Canada and internationally.

She was the first Black woman of Jamaican heritage to serve as executive vice-president and secretary-treasurer at the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC).

Currently the CLC secretary-treasurer, Clarke Walker also serves as the chair of the International Trade Union Confederation Women's Committee and a Governing Body Member of the ILO.

Her work as a negotiator resulted in the adoption of C190 to end Violence and Harassment in the workplace.

She remains committed to building a strong and inclusive labour movement.



Lesleyann Samuel
PRESIDENT/UJAA

LESLEYANN SAMUEL has been president of the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA) Inc. (UJAA), since September 2014.

During her tenure, membership has grown from 32 to more than 55 associations.

A visionary leader, she has positioned UJAA as an important stakeholder in the educator sector while collaborating with alumni groups, globally.

Lesleyann is vice-chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force, and an officer for the alumnae association of her *alma mater* – Immaculate Conception High School, St. Andrew, Jamaica. Lesleyann has been the recipient of numerous leadership and community service awards.

In addition to being a technical writer/consultant in the telecommunications sector, Lesleyann has been an adjunct professor with University of Maryland Global Campus in the Business Management Department where she has been teaching Organizational Leadership since 2001.



Neil Curtis

NEIL Curtis, executive director of Farm Up Jamaica Ltd., is a results-oriented, highly experienced executive with an in-depth knowledge of climate resilience and sustainability.

He is well known as a high-energy leader with demonstrated success for maximizing cost efficiency by restructuring processes, reducing spending, and improving the consistency of production while strengthening the bottom line.

A strong marketer, he is proficient in import/export data to transition communities into industries that can produce food for the world.

Curtis displays a dedication to personal commitments and places a premium on responsibility, integrity and performance. An enthusiastic, agriculturally oriented diaspora member with a collaborative skill set, he invites Jamaicans from around the globe to help rebuild the island's economic backbone, agriculture.



Andrew Sang

ANDREW SANG attended Kingston College, Jamaica, and was goalkeeper of the 1985 and 1986 Manning Cup championship teams.

Sang has a BSc in Accounting from Hunter College, NYC and is an associate at one of the largest equity firms in the city. He is a director of Jamaica Independence Foundation, Inc., and a member of the Kingston College Old Boys' Association, New York chapter.

His charitable endeavours include Team in Training, City Harvest and Governor's Island and other work-related groups. He is a member of the CRCA cycling club and an avid soccer player, cyclist, skier and traveller.

Aina-Nia Ayo'dele Grant

AINA-NIA AYO'DELE Grant was born Arlene Audrey Bartley in Kingston, Jamaica. She immigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1989.

Currently the director of community resources at the City of Toronto, she was integral to the creation of the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism and, in 2018, established North America's first government-sanctioned strategy to address anti-Black racism.

Grant is a renowned public speaker and has presented to audiences across Canada, USA, the Caribbean and Ghana.

A former leadership development consultant on issues of gender, racial equity and African indigenous practices, she is the founder and former managing director of Sacred Women International.

In 2018, Grant was named one of the 100 Most Accomplished Black Canadian Women in Canada.



LeRoy Graham

LEROY GRAHAM was born in Portland, Jamaica, of Cuban and Jamaican heritage. He migrated to the United States in April 1971. He founded the True Tribute Organization Foundation, Inc in 2014 to promote, protect, preserve, and document the legacies of influential contributors of Jamaican music and culture.

He is an educator, music consultant, event coordinator, songwriter, and saxophonist. Graham has worked for three major performing rights societies and has educated on issues concerning intellectual property rights within the diaspora for over thirty years.

He is a member of the JDETFF and the UNIA-ACL and collaborates with organisations advocating for the rights of Caribbean nationals.



Dr Allan G. Cunningham
GJDC

DR ALLAN G. Cunningham is a past student of Camperdown High School and founder of the People Profile Awards, which recognise 'ordinary people doing extraordinary things'.

He is president of the Jamaican Men of Florida, honorary chair of the Jamaica Diaspora USA/South and a member of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council.

He is a lecturer in the field of International Business, and has served with Green Wealth International as its senior international business consultant and global strategic analyst. He holds a Doctorate in International Business.

In 2018, the Board of County Commission of Broward County declared January 5, 'Dr Allan Cunningham Day'.



Nadia Lewis, Esq

NADIA LEWIS, Esq is an immigration attorney and founder of Lewis Law, PA., dedicated to bridging the gap for immigrants by providing quality, comprehensive legal services to each individual client in the areas of family and employment-based petitions, green cards, work permits, citizenship, VAWA, deportation and waivers.

In this dynamic immigration climate, effective legal representation can be the difference between the American dream and deportation.

'Keeping Families together, one Family at a time'. The office is located at 6055 W. Commercial Blvd, Tamarac, Florida 33319. Website: <https://lewis-law.lawyer/> Tel:(954)-530-1717. Email: Nadia@lewislaw.lawyer. WhatsApp 954-536-9113

'Don't go it alone - Let us help you!'

Valerie Gray, Esq

ATTORNEY VALERIE Gray has been practising law for over 28 years, primarily in the areas of matrimonial and family law, estates, real estate and civil supreme litigation.

Her honesty and dedication with her clients reflect upon her best possible outcome for each case.

She is involved in various communities and does *pro bono* work in the New York City and Westchester counties.

She is a board member of Westchester Community Opportunity Program (WESTCOP), member of the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, Inc. (WBWC), Brandeis Society and the Black Bar Association. Valerie is married to Romeo Bailey and they have a beautiful daughter, Joie Mitchell.



Michael Duncan

MICHAEL R. Duncan is the 10th successor to the Hon Marcus Mosiah Garvey and the current president general (PG) of the Universal Negro Improvement Association.

Hailing from Grants Pen in Kingston, PG thought he was a Jamaican, but it was after moving to New York as a teenager and reading **The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey**, that he realised he was an African, born in Jamaica.

It is because of that teaching that he resurrected the Rosedale Soccer Club, and by pooling resources and having \$0 debt, built the FACA ROC - a community supermarket with its 15,000 square feet of dry goods, fish, meats, produce and vegetables.

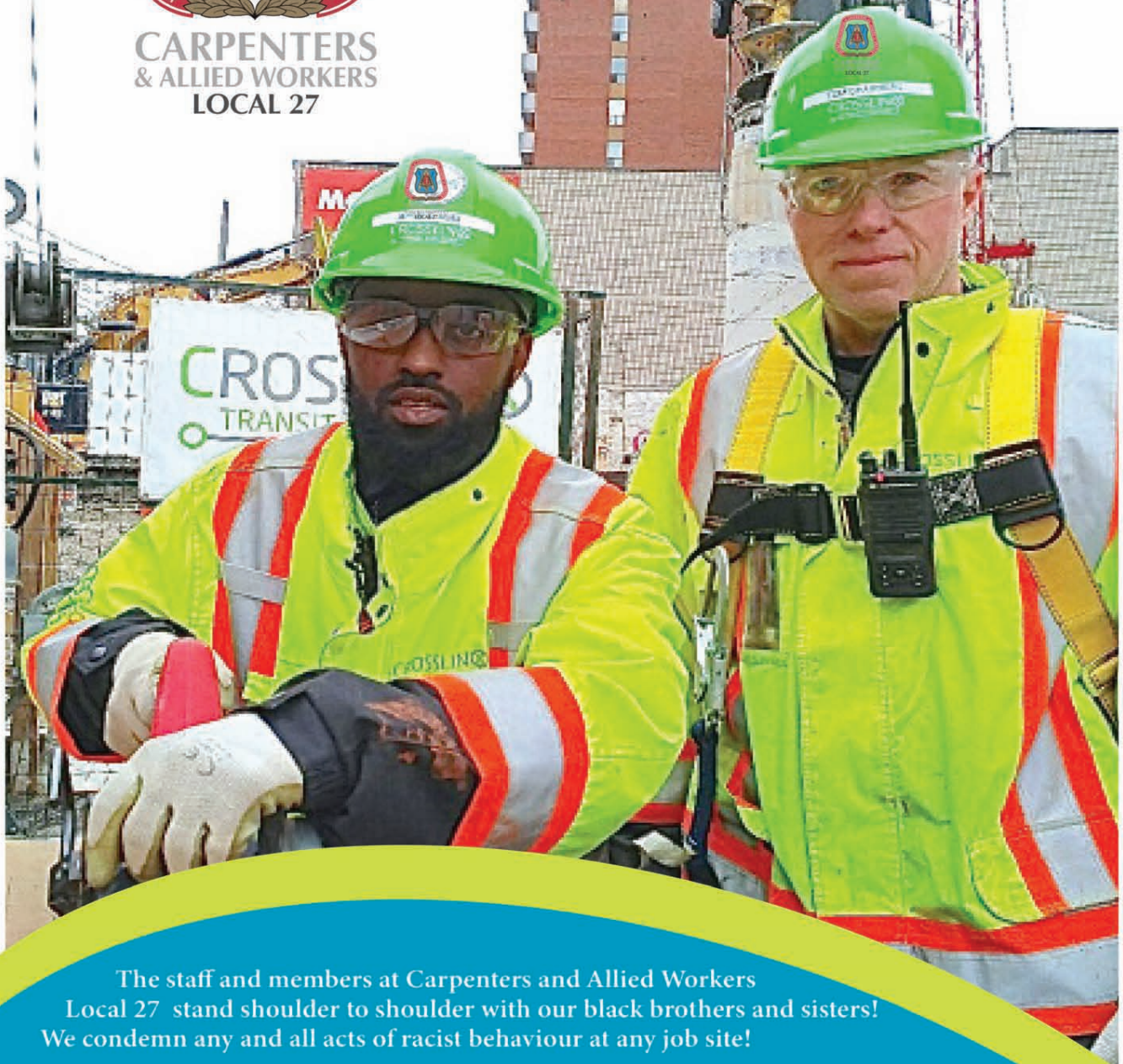




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Food For The Poor Canada

FOOD FOR The Poor Canada (FFPC) wishes everyone a wonderful Independence Day. We are calling on Jamaican Canadians to help feed families in Jamaica during COVID-19. FFPC has already sent 1.5 million meals to Jamaica and we need your help to send another 1.5 million meals to support families over the next three months. FFPC has worked in Jamaica for 11 years, supporting health, education, housing, and providing food and effective emergency response. Please feed a family at www.foodforthe poor.ca.



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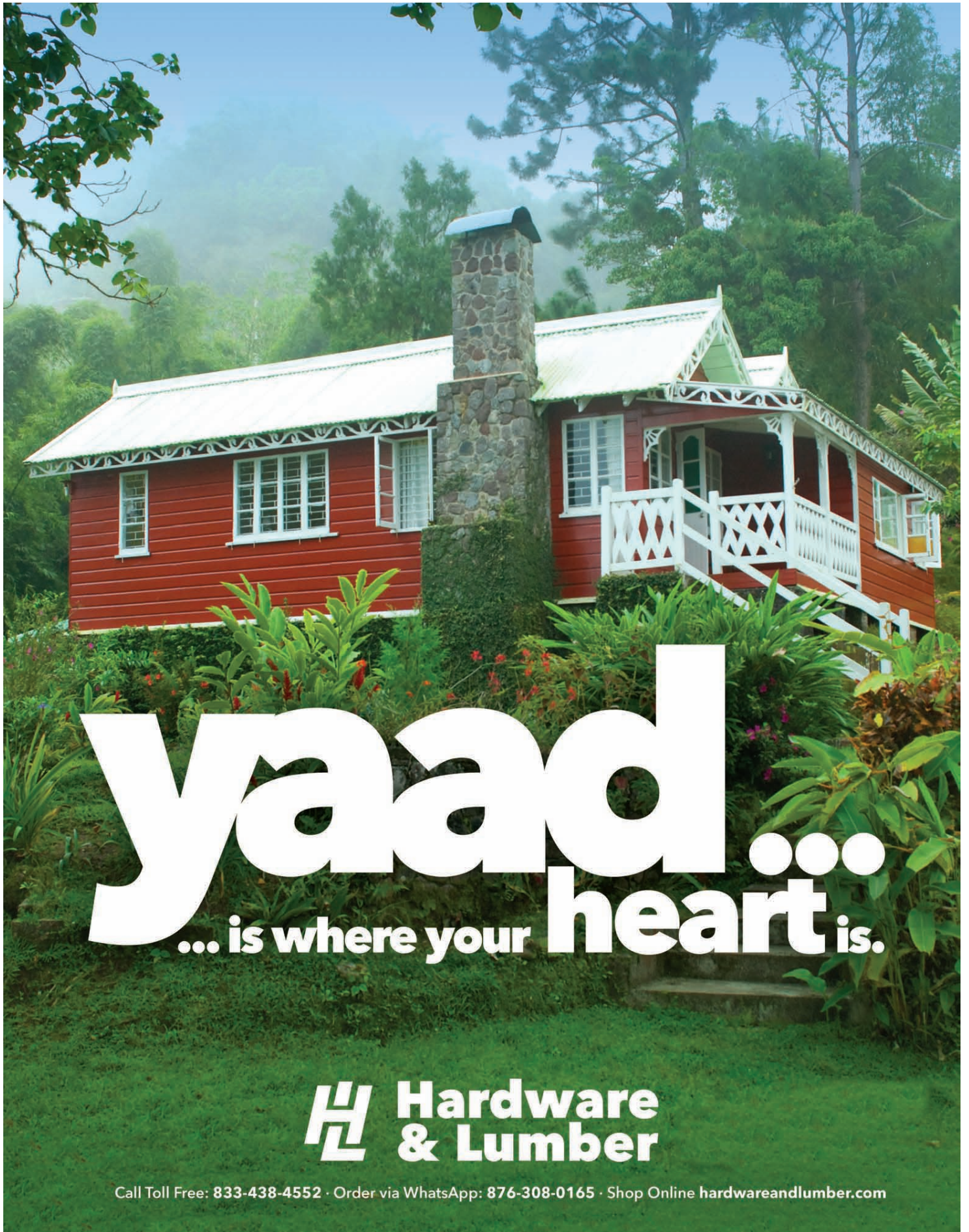


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Hon Yvette D. Clarke

US CONGRESS

THE HON Yvette D. Clarke returns to the US Congress for another term, defeating four opponents in the June 23, Democratic Primary for the 9th District seat in Brooklyn, NY. She is the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, including mother Dr. Una S.T. Clarke, a champion of NY City politics.

First elected to Congress in 2007, Clarke co-chairs the Congressional Caribbean Caucus, is vice chair of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and a member of the Homeland Security Committee. She is a member of the influential Congressional Black Caucus since her arrival on the Hill, chairs its Immigration Task Force and is an active member of its Census 2020 Task Force.

Clarke is a graduate of Oberlin College and an APPAM/Sloan Fellowship in Public Policy scholar.



Luann Jones

LUANN JONES is owner/CEO of Covenant Funeral Home in Scarborough – Canada's First Black Owned Funeral Home. She calls it a passion and a service.

She was born in London, England and emigrated to Toronto, Canada. "Each morning, it's about how I can be of service to a family, and in what capacity," she said.

"I love what I do and, at the same time, I respect life and I respect being able to get up every morning ... some don't wake up," she said. "Life is too short. You pick and choose your battles, what you let get to you, and who you let bother you."

Lloyd McDowell

LLOYD MCDOWELL, aka 'GEM', is a Jamaica-born businessman in Brampton, Ontario. Approximately 29 years ago, he opened his first West Indian grocery store - GEM - taken from the initials of his mother's name 'GEM'. To date, there are four (4) GEMS, two (2) restaurants, a West Indian grocery store and a wholesale meat and grocery store. All are located in Brampton, Ontario.

Over the years, GEM has been involved in the Free For All Foundation, making monetary contributions to at-risk youth in the form of post-secondary scholarships. During this COVID-19 pandemic, GEM stores delivered complimentary meals to the essential workers of nursing homes in Brampton. This was done to show the group's appreciation to them for taking exceptional care of the community's elderly. The stores have also made donations to multiple other charities in Brampton.



Jewel C. Scott

ESQ

JEWEL C. Scott is managing partner at Scott & Turner Law Group, LLC, in Jonesboro, Georgia, and specialises in family law and criminal defence.

Prior to becoming district attorney, Scott worked as a staff attorney with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc., providing free legal services to the Clayton County and metro Atlanta community.

In July 2004, Attorney Scott made history, simultaneously becoming the first female and African-American district attorney of Clayton County, Georgia and the State of Georgia.

Jewel Scott served the Jamaican community in Georgia as honorary consul, from August 2014 until December 2017, and received numerous citations for her service.

Scott's personal philosophy is that 'justice must be balanced with fairness.'



Norma Jarrett

OFANA

NORMA JARRETT is founder and president of the Ole Farmers Association North America Inc. (OFANA), an alumni association for graduates of the Jamaica School of Agriculture (JSA) and the successive colleges, COA and CASE.

She worked as an agriculture extension specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture in Jamaica, later as the parish home economics extension manager, and pioneered a UNICEF nutrition programme in Jamaica.

She has enjoyed a stellar and distinguished career as a director of nutrition in the healthcare industry in the United States.

Jarrett is a current participant with the UJAA, as well as the Diaspora Agriculture Task Force.

She is a graduate of The Tuskegee Institute and St Catherine High School.



George Crooks

CEO JAMMINS EVENTS

GEORGE CROOKS is a US veteran having served in the navy. He earned a BBA in Marketing from the University of North Florida, in 1984. He is the founder/CEO of Jammins Events, an arts & cultural promotions event management company which has evolved into the premier concert promoter in the NY tri-state area.

His well-known advocacy that the arts can positively influence the youth has translated into his setting up the New York Cultural All-Star Music Academy.

Despite his busy schedule, Crooks serves on the board of many community organisations, including Community Board 17, and he is a founding member/president of Brooklyn's Urban Night Life Association.



Michael Smith

IPP/JAM

MICHAEL SMITH is a graduate of FIT and Dawson College. He is an academically and commercially astute member of Montreal's Jamaican community. Born in Jamaica, Michael migrated to Canada in 1972, at the age of five, and has steadily amassed significant experiences.

An educator and entrepreneur, Michael has developed his own business in web and graphic design; business coaching; event management and promotions.

Active at the Jamaica Association of Montreal for many years, Michael is the immediate past president. He served in that role for three years and has been a member of the board of directors for 15 years.

Akelia Lawrence Maitland

AKELIA LAWRENCE Maitland is a dynamic young leader within the Jamaican diaspora as well as the New York non-profit industry. She's the wife of Lawrence Maitland and mother of two, Landan and Aleyana.

Akelia is a proud alumna of Holy Childhood High School (Jamaica, WI) and Stony Brook University (degrees in economics and social welfare). She currently oversees a transitional programme for teenagers in NYC's foster care and is a member of her agency's Senior Leadership Group.

Lawrence Maitland recently represented the Northeast/US Jamaican diaspora to Jamaica's minister of foreign affairs.

Lawrence Maitland is a passionate advocate for social justice.



Sephron Mair

UTECH

BUSINESSMAN, PHILANTHROPIST, community leader, promoter are a few caps that Sephron Mair wears, but 'Born Jamaican' is the proudest he wears.

A graduate of CAST/UTech, Mair worked at the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation and The National Housing Trust, two agencies devoted to improving Jamaica and Jamaicans.

Migrating and settling in New York in 1982, he furthered his business administration studies at Baruch College, founded the CAST/UTech Alumni NY Chapter and served as president and Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations representative.

He formed Diversified Marketing Group and The Signature Society, which promotes some of the most sought-after events in New York.

The Jamaica Independence Gala Society (JIGS) is his brainchild. Food For The Poor Jamaica is the prime beneficiary of JIGS.