

HARAMBE

A Quarterly Foundation Newsletter

Harambe is an African word which means “working together”. It is also the foundation’s slogan and name of one of Mrs. Rita Marley’s most popular tunes. Available through our website quarterly, this newsletter will be a vital vehicle to inform you of our foundation’s endeavors, events and accomplishments; importantly, we eagerly anticipate “working together” with you, through your contributions and feedback. So with One Love we could nurture Harambe into a constructive newsletter.



RITA MARLEY FOUNDATION

"EXCELLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION"



On July 2, the sun shone in stunning splendor. One Love Café at the Bob Marley Museum was clothed in vibrant colours of red, yellow, green and black. Rita Marley’s music and the gentle whiff of frankincense filled the air. Large portraits and framed photos of Bob & Rita Marley greeted guests

throughout the venue. Uniform clad students accompanied by their principals and teachers, government officials, dignitaries, diplomats and media streamed through the venue’s entrance, into its gazebo and then to the immaculately decorated outdoor sitting area for the Awards Ceremony celebrating the achievements of participants in the Rita Marley Foundation (Jamaica) Essay Competition.

The Foundation organized a regal celebration. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church administered prayers and blessings. Caricom Youth Ambassador for Jamaica, Mr. Dwayne Gutzmer officiated as Emcee.

An opening address by Ms. Rosemary Duncan (RMF/ Project Coordinator) emphasized Mrs. Marley's role as matriarch of the Marley family, Founder of the Marley Group of Companies, President of the Rita Marley Foundation and her commitment to the youth, the aged and the less fortunate in Jamaica and Africa (see page 4) .

Keynote speaker, Dr. Kwame Boafo (former Regional Director of UNESCO) focused on the importance of reading and writing in achieving success (see page 5). Director of Culture Ms. Dahlia Harris emphasized Jamaica’s impact and contributions to the world.

Master percussionist, Bongo Herman and artiste Aisha Bell wowed (*cont*)

Dread, Natty Dread now, (Natty Dread)
Dreadlock Congo Bongo I. (Natty Dread)
Natty Dreadlock in a Babylon: (Natty Dread)

Editor: Rita Marley
Writer: Rosemary Duncan

July - October 2014

In this issue:

Rita Marley Foundation “Excellence through education”	1-2
Bob Marley His Music & Message	2-3
Opening Address by Rosemary Duncan Rita Marley Foundation Jamaica	4-5
Key note address by Dr. Kwame Boafo (Former Regional Director UNESCO)	5-6
Thank you	7
Reading Skills Program Update	11
Letters of Love & Gratitude from Ethiopia	11-14
Alpha & Omega Seniors Day Care Project	15
Blessed Earthstrong	16

(continued from previous page)

the audience with a splendid performance which included a tribute to Mrs. Rita Marley.

The winners were revealed to thunderous applause. Each received prizes for their magnificent work: 4th place - Suwayne Josephs (Marcus Garvey Technical High School); 3rd place- Damain Walker (Bob Marley Primary & Junior High School); 2nd place- Tia Green (Haile Selassie High School).

Cheers and drum roles echoed as Omar Ford of Papine High School was announced the 1st place winner.

It is with great honour the Rita Marley Foundation (Jamaica) now shares with you the winning essay titled:

Bob Marley His Music & Message

Written by Omar Ford

Bob Marley's real name is Robert Nesta Marley. He was born on the farm of his maternal grandfather in Nine Mile, Saint Ann, Jamaica, to Nerval Sindair Marley and Cedella Booker. Norval Marley was a 'European-Jamaican' of British heritage. Heather Marley once stated that he may have had distant Jewish Syrian ancestry. When he was 12 years old he moved to the poverty stricken Trench town area of Kingston where he decided that his future lay in making music. Marley worked with many musicians throughout his teenage years, including Peter McIntosh (Peter Tosh) and Neville Livingstone (Bunny Wailer). The three of them would later go on to record under the name "The Wailers".



Bob Marley was known to be a very motivated and artistic individual who started with nothing and now is one of the world's most revered musical icons; a true Jamaican legend. His songs which had a major impact on youth all over the world include 'One Love'. They still reach and affect many persons lives; making their lives easier, happier and free. Many persons now do not have to worry about their race or ethnic group being considered inferior.

Bob Marley is a Jamaican Legend. One of his messages comes from the song 'Get Up, Stand Up.' In this case he is telling the youth they must stand up for what they think is right and must not give up no matter what happens. The messages that come from his songs have impacted many youth not only in Jamaica but in the entire world.

Bob Marley has proven that you could achieve anything in life; even your most difficult goal for the future once you strive for it; confidently. Bob Marley is an example to this. He was born in the ghetto, poor and his parents were unable to provide for themselves properly and now he is one of the world's most important artists.

Bob Marley did not care about fame. He even refused many interviews because he wasn't interested in the rich life of rock stars or the media. Some musicians out there just make music to make it and also to get fame, but Bob Marley's music had come from his heart and he also felt them as well. Most songs that were sung by Bob Marley brought tears to his eyes and also tears to his people, the world and all those who listen to them. This is one way in which he brought peace to the community and also to the world. He has shown persons from all over the world that crime is not the solution to problem solving; hard work and cooperation are. *(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page)

Bob's life was not even drama free but like a true legend he made a positive statement inspite. He was approached by the then Prime Minister Michael Manley to stage a free concert which was fixed to conveniently coincide with the national elections, thus suggesting that he had the support of Bob Marley.

This dangerous move resulted in an attempt on Bob's life. On the evening of the 3 December a number of gunmen arrived at Bob's house on Hope Road and shot Bob, his wife Rita, and his manager. These gunmen were alleged to be the henchmen of the opposition leader Edward Seaga. Fortunately, nobody was killed. Bob being Bob, went ahead with the planned concert defiantly appearing with his arm in a sling.

I am of the opinion that Bob Marley is legendary as only a legend would live by the principle "Live of yourself and you will live in vain, live for others and live again". He came along and gave reggae life and opened its' door to the world. He is also considered legendary because of the songs that he sang to people all over the world. Bob Marley is a hero and no one could or would do what he did. Therefore he is recalled legendary and he will not be forgotten by his people. Bob Marley saw that there were changes to be made in the world and that was what he had aimed for. Bob Marley is a legend with an ever lengthening list of musical accomplishments and attributes. He advocated for social changes while simultaneously allowing listeners to forget about their problems; love and just dance.



Awards Ceremony for Rita Marley Foundation Essay Competition



- 1) Winston Johnson (RMF Interior Decorator)
- 2) Director of Culture, Ms. Dahlia Harris receives token of appreciation from RMF
- 3) Dr.Boafo receives token from RMF
- 4) Stephanie Marley RMF Director
- 5) MC, Mr. Dwayne Gutzmore (Caricom Youth Ambassador) receives token from RMF

*A dreadlock Congo Bongo I. (Natty Dread)
Eh! Children get your culture (Natty Dreadlock)
And don't stay there and gesture, a-ah, (Natty Dreadlock)*

OPENING ADDRESS BY ROSEMARY DUNCAN RITA MARLEY FOUNDATION JAMAICA

Distinguished ladies & gentlemen, principals, teachers and students, the Rita Marley Foundation welcomes you to the Awards Ceremony for the 1st Annual Rita Marley Foundation Essay Competition. This year's theme is "Bob Marley His Music & Message."

The Essay Competition is championed by Mrs. Rita Marley, who in her capacity as Matriarch of the Marley family, has been the driving force behind keeping the Legacy of her husband, Bob Marley, alive.



*Ms. Rosemary Duncan
(RMF/Project Coordinator)*

In 1986, she had the vision and wisdom to transform Bob Marley's house here at 56 Hope Road into the Bob Marley Museum. It is in her capacity as Founder of the Robert Marley Foundation; the Bob Marley Museum; the Bob Marley Group of Companies, Tuff Gong Records and the Rita Marley Foundation that Mrs. Rita Marley continues to make manifest her commitment to the works of her husband Bob Marley; her children and her people – by fulfilling her mission to enlighten, educate and entertain through her philanthropy and music.

The Rita Marley Foundation has offices in Ghana, West Africa and Kingston, Jamaica. It's vision statement:

"The aged be protected, the infants nourished and cared for." These are indeed the words that inspire the vision that drives and propels Mrs. Rita Marley & the Rita Marley Foundation.

The Foundation's slogan is "Harambe." It is a Swahili word that means "Working Together." Thus the Rita Marley Foundation works together with communities and organizations to make dreams a reality for the youth, the aged and the less fortunate in Jamaica and Africa.

The Essay Competition is a project that aims at developing and enhancing the reading, vocabulary and writing skills of the youth.

In the song Natty Dread, Bob Marley urges the youth to take education seriously. He sings:

"...Children get your culture
And don't stay there and gesture,
Or the battle will be hotter
And you won't get no supper."

Do your best with reading, writing and spelling. Those skills can be the ticket to achieving academic success and career goals. It is important in our personal and professional lives.

Since this is the first Essay Competition organized by the Rita Marley Foundation, we chose four schools to participate (Haile Selassie High, Marcus Garvey Technical High, Bob Marley Primary & Jr. High & Papine High School). However, next year's event will be held at a national level with more schools participating.

A panel of judges assessed the essays submitted and selected four winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th place) respectively. The judges were very impressed by the students' insight, depth and caliber of work. (*cont*)

*Or the battle will be hotter (Natty Dreadlock)
And you won't get no supper. (Natty Dreadlock)
Natty Dread, Natty Dread, now; (Natty Dread)*

(continued from previous page) And so we say congratulations to all participating schools. We also applaud the principals and teachers for guiding and motivating the students.

We encourage all participants, whether you've made it to the finals of this Essay Competition or not, to continue writing. As the saying goes "Good, better, best, never let it rest, until your good is better and your better, is best."

Jah Bless & One Love 

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY DR. KWAME BOAFO (FORMER REGIONAL DIRECTOR UNESCO)

I am pleased to be invited to give a brief address at this ceremony where awards will be given to semi-finalists and winners of the first essay writing competition on "Bob Marley: His music and message."

Since I have been requested to be brief and speak for only five minutes, I wish to focus on two things: (i) the importance of writing and participation in such competitions; and (ii) what a few well-known and internationally acclaimed authors/writers tell us about writing.

There are many reasons why writing, like reading, is important in schools, in our work, in our community and life in general. I wish to mention just two of those reasons:

First, writing or the skills and ability to compose text or put words together in a meaningful and coherent way is essential for achieving success in our education, training, learning and in our work – regardless of whether you work on your own or in a formal setting such as office or organization. In many instances, writing is the primary basis on which our learning in school, work in the workplace and elsewhere are judged or assessed.

Secondly, it is in writing that our communication and thinking skills are developed and improved. Writing is one of the most important means of expressing or communicating information, our thoughts, ideas and views to others. The novels, poems, plays, drama, news reports, etc. which we read or listen to or even watch are ways in which others are communicating information, their thoughts, ideas and views to us. And writing helps us to record those ideas, thoughts and experiences for future reference or posterity. Oral history is good but written history is more permanent and widely accessible.

The rapid spread of new information and communication technologies has generated a trend of text messages on cell-phones, sending e-mails and postings on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp. Although some people take liberties with their grammar, spelling and style when using these social media, it holds true that an effective and meaningful engagement in and use of social media requires good quality writing skills. *(continued on next page)*



*Dr. Kwame Boafo, former
Regional Director UNESCO*

*A dreadlock Congo Bongo I. (Natty Dread)
Natty Dreadlock in a Babylon - (Natty Dread)
Roots Natty, Roots Natty! (Natty Dread)*

(continued from previous page)

Essay competitions such as the one organized by the Rita Marley Foundation provide the opportunities for school children to practice and improve their writing skills. And some of those receiving prizes today may well grow up to win even bigger prizes in Jamaica, in the Caribbean or indeed internationally. Future winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature, as the late Derek Walcott of St. Lucia did in 1992, may well be with us today.

I was searching through *the Writer's Digest* compilation of quotes from famous authors about

writing and came across a few interesting words which I wish to share with you to end my remarks:



Dr. Kwame Boafo, former Regional Director UNESCO

Maya Angelou: “What I try to do is write. I may write for two weeks “the cat sat on the mat, that is that, not a rat”. And it might be just the most boring and awful stuff. But I try. When I am writing, I write.”

*Ray Bradbury: “Any man who keeps working is not a failure. He may not be a great writer, but if he applies the old-fashioned virtues of hard, constant labor, he’ll eventually make some kind of career for himself as writer”.

**Jane Yolen: “Exercise the writing muscle every day, even if it is only a letter, notes, a title list, a character sketch, a journal entry. Writers are like dancers, like athletes. Without that exercise, the muscles seize up”.

Thanks for your attention. God bless you. 🌍

* Ray D. Bradbury (1920-2012) was an American fantasy, science fiction, and mystery fiction writer. He was one of the most celebrated 20th-century American writers and many of his works have been adapted into comic books, television shows, and films.

** Jane Yolen is a novelist, poet, journalist, songwriter, storyteller, and children’s book author who has written more than 300 books.

*Then I walk up the first street, (Natty Dreadlock)
And then I walk up the second street to see. (Natty Dreadlock)
Then I trod on through third street, (Natty Dreadlock)*

THANK YOU



(L-R): Ms. Dahlia Harris(Director of Culture); Excellency Mr. Bernardo Hernandez (Cuba Ambassador); Dr. Kwame Boafo (former Regional Director UNESCO); Mr. Femi Olutola (Consular General, Nigerian High Commission)

The Rita Marley Foundation (JA) extends warmest thanks & appreciation to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church for Blessings and prayers

Ginormous thanks to Judges: Dr. Kadamawe Knife (U.W.I), Dr. Donna Hope (U.W.I), Dr. Raymond Hitchins (U.W.I), Dr. Leachim Semaj (Job Bank)

Sincere thanks to the Master of Ceremonies Mr. Dwayne Gutzmer (Caricom Youth Ambassador)

Tremendous gratitude to the keynote speaker, Dr. Kwame Boafo (former Regional Director UNESCO)

Heartfelt appreciation to Diplomats/Dignitaries: Cuba Ambassador Excellency Mr. Bernardo Hernandez, Director of Culture (Ms. Dahlia Harris), Mr. Femi Olutula (Nigerian Consular General), Ms. Siphokazi Hermans (3rd Secretary Political South African High Commission), Ms. Himachuli Gurung (Programme Specialist, Culture, UNESCO)

Huge Hearty thanks to Principals, teachers & students of the Papine High School, Haile Selassie High School, Bob Marley Primary & Junior High School & Marcus Garvey Technical High School.

Big Thanks to the media: PBC Jamaica (television); RJR Communications Group, Examiner.com, Jamaica Observer, Jamaica Gleaner, Irie FM radio & Power 106 FM.

Very special thanks to Winston Johnson (Decor'), Shauna Kaye Brown (welcome desk), Mr. Charles Ferguson (Photographer), Ms. Donisha Prendergast, One Love Cafe' (snacks & beverages), Humble, Trevor & Ryan (BMM), Tour guides (BMM)

Extraordinarily grateful to entertainers: Bongo Herman & Aisha Bell

The Rita Marley Foundation is greatly thankful to our President & Founder Mrs. Rita Marley OD; Board of Directors, Ms. Stephanie Marley (RMF Director), Ms. Serita Stewart (RMF Director), Ms. Angela Mattison (RMF/BMM), Ms. Rosemary Duncan (RMF/Project Coordinator)

Jah Bless & One Love. Wherever we are Jah is present & all is well.



*And then I talk to some Dread on fourth street. (Natty Dreadlock)
Natty Dreadlock in a fifth street, (Natty Dreadlock)
And then I skip one fence to sixth street. (Natty Dreadlock)*



Awards Ceremony for Rita Marley Foundation Essay Competition



1) Winners (front row) principals/teachers (back row)
 2) 1st place winner receives medal from event's Judge, Dr. Donna Hope (U.W.I Lecturer)
 3) 1st place winner receives medal from event's Judge, Dr. Donna Hope (U.W.I Lecturer)



4) 1st place winner receives trophy from event's Judge, Dr. Kadamawe Knife (U.W.I Lecturer)
 5) Omar Ford reads winning essay
 6) Omar Ford overjoyed
 7) 2nd place winner receives trophy from Stephanie Marley (RMF Director)



8) 3rd place winner receives medal from Ms. Siphonazi Hermans (3rd Secretary Political South African High Commission)



9) 2nd place winner receives trophy from Mr. Femi Olutola (Nigerian Consular General)
 10) 3rd place winner receives trophy from Stephanie Marley (RMF Director)

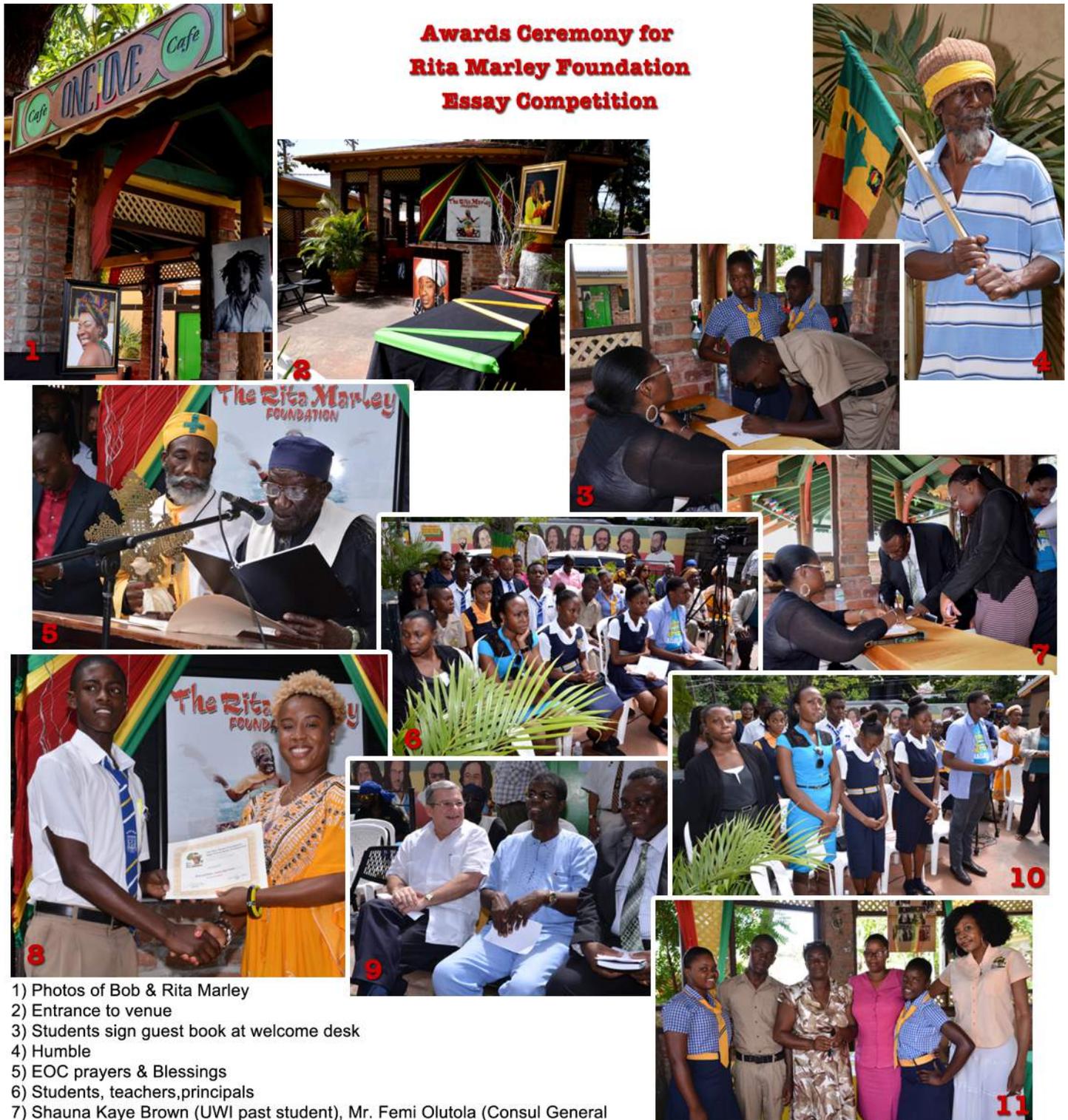


11) 3rd place winner receives certificate from Ms. Donisha Prendergast (Marley Granddaughter)
 12) Ms. Dahlia Harris (Director of Culture); Excellency Mr. Bernardo Hernandez (Cuba Ambassador); Dr. Kwame Boafa (former Regional Director of UNESCO); Mr. Femi Olutola (Nigerian Consular General)



12

**Awards Ceremony for
Rita Marley Foundation
Essay Competition**



- 1) Photos of Bob & Rita Marley
- 2) Entrance to venue
- 3) Students sign guest book at welcome desk
- 4) Humble
- 5) EOC prayers & Blessings
- 6) Students, teachers, principals
- 7) Shauna Kaye Brown (UWI past student), Mr. Femi Olutola (Consul General Nigerian High Commission) & family
- 8) Semifinalist receives certificate from Ms. Serita Stewart (RMF Director)
- 9) Dignitaries/diplomats-(L-R) Cuba Ambassador Excellency Mr. Bernardo Hernandez Dr. Kwame Boafo (former Regional Director UNESCO), Mr. Femi Olutola (Consular General Nigerian High Commission)
- 10) Prayers & Blessings
- 11) Bob Marley Primary & Junior High School students, Principal Roxanne Williams, teacher & Rosemary Duncan (RMF)

**Awards Ceremony for
Rita Marley Foundation
Essay Competition**



- 1) Rosemary Duncan (RMF/Project Coordinator) delivers opening address
- 2) Semifinalist receives certificate from Ms. Serita Stewart (RMF Director)
- 3,14) Dr. Kwame Boafo (former Regional Director of UNESCO) keynote address
- 4) Ms. Rosemary Duncan (RMF) & Caricom Youth Ambassador Mr. Dwayne Gutzmer announce 1st place winner
- 5,8,9,10) Bongo Herman tribute to Mrs. Rita Marley
- 6) Aisha Bell entertains
- 7) Aisha Bell serenades dignitaries
- 11) 4th place winner, Ambassador Mr. Hernandez & Ms. Stephanie Marley (RMF Director)
- 12) 4th place winner & Excellency Ambassador Mr. Bernardo Hernandez (Cuba Embassy)
- 13) Serita Stewart & Stephanie Marley (RMF Directors)
- 15) RMF Directors & event attendees
- 16) Ms. Dahlia Harris (Director of Culture)
- 17) Ms. Rosemary Duncan (RMF/Project Coordinator)
- 18) Serita Stewart (RMF Director)
- 19) Angela Mattison (RMF/BMM)





Ms. Stephanie Marley (far left) Ms. Rosemary Duncan (far right) with teachers & students of St. Issacs Basic School.

READING SKILLS PROGRAM UPDATE

The Rita Marley Foundation (Jamaica) continues its reading skills program at the start of the school term in September. Our next reading skills training session will be held with the pupils of the Holy Trinity Basic School.

MARLEY FAMILY MUSIC NEWS

- Ziggy's new album "Fly Rasta" in stores now. Get your copy today.
- Stephen Marley on tour now. Check tour dates for concerts near you at www.stephenmarleymusic.com
- Jomersa album "Comfortable" available in stores.



We support the Jamaica Reggae Girlz

LETTERS OF LOVE & GRATITUDE FROM ETHIOPIA

On a quiet sunlit Friday afternoon, its silence pierced now and then by melodic chirps of tropical birds and the rustle of light breeze through trees, Mrs. Rita Marley paints a piece of furniture in her garden while reminiscing on letters of love and genuine gratitude from her adopted children in Ethiopia, the land where the Gods love to be.

Also read additional letters from Ethiopia on the Rita Marley Foundation website.



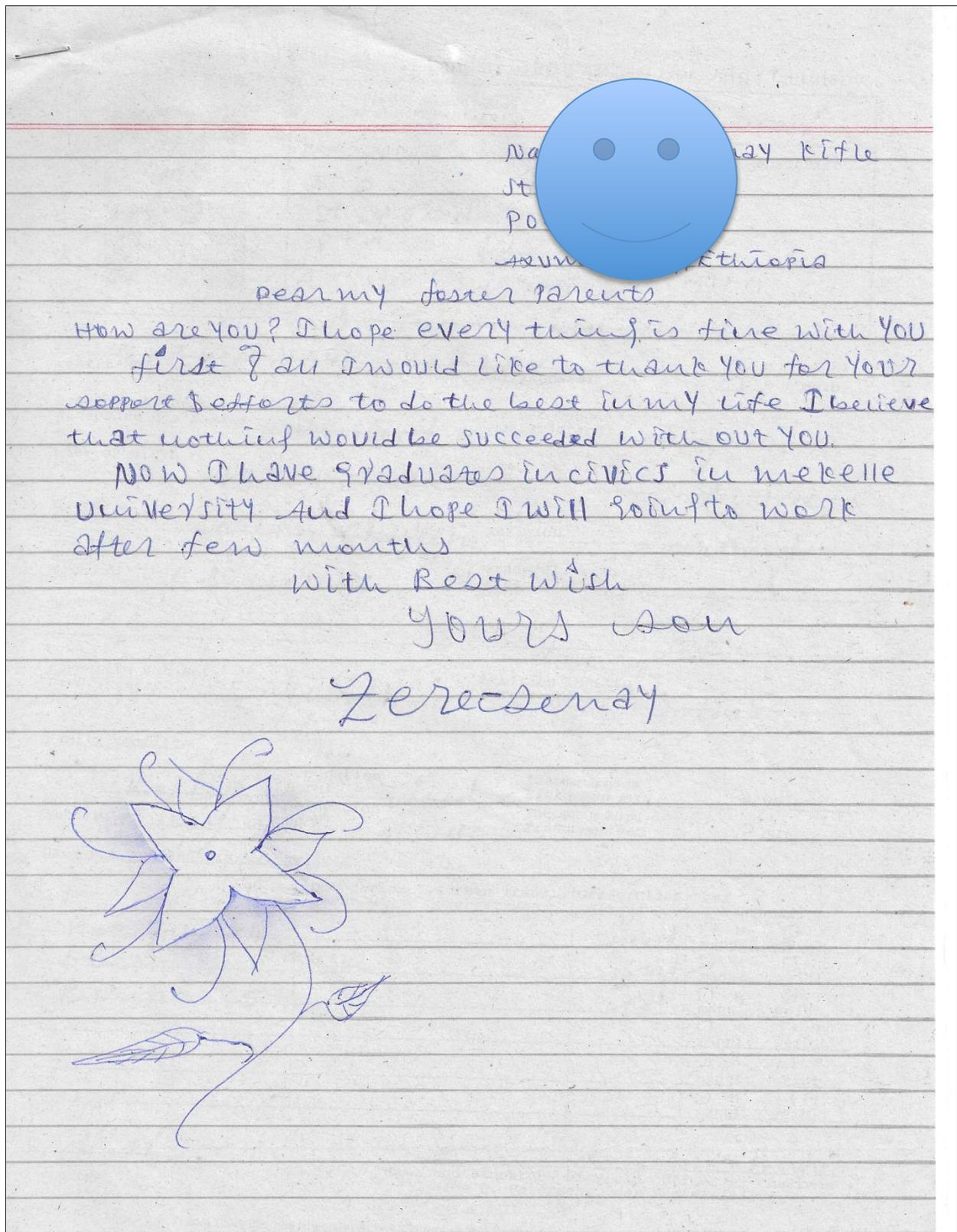
Mrs. Rita Marley



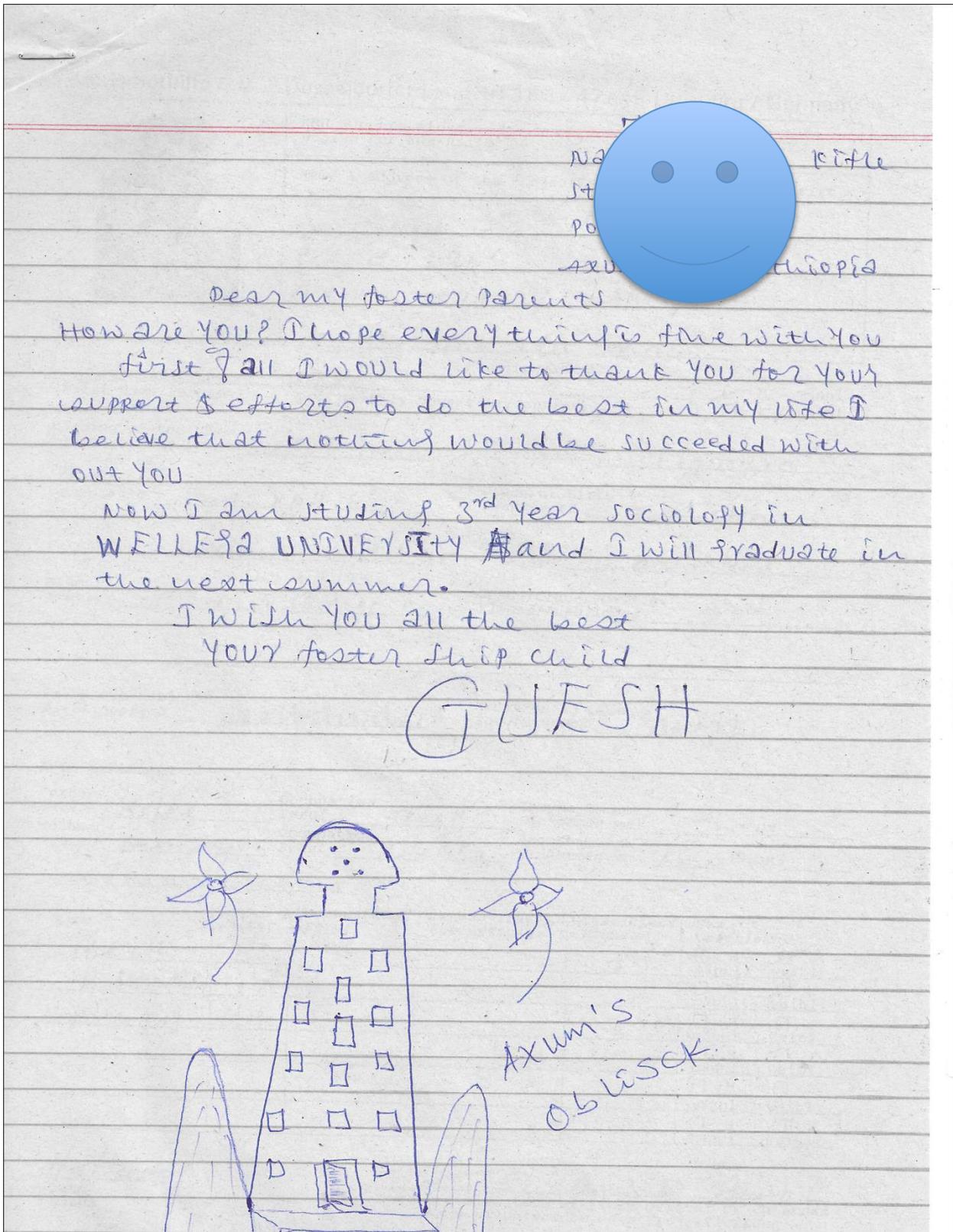
Mrs. Marley's adopted children in Axum, Ethiopia



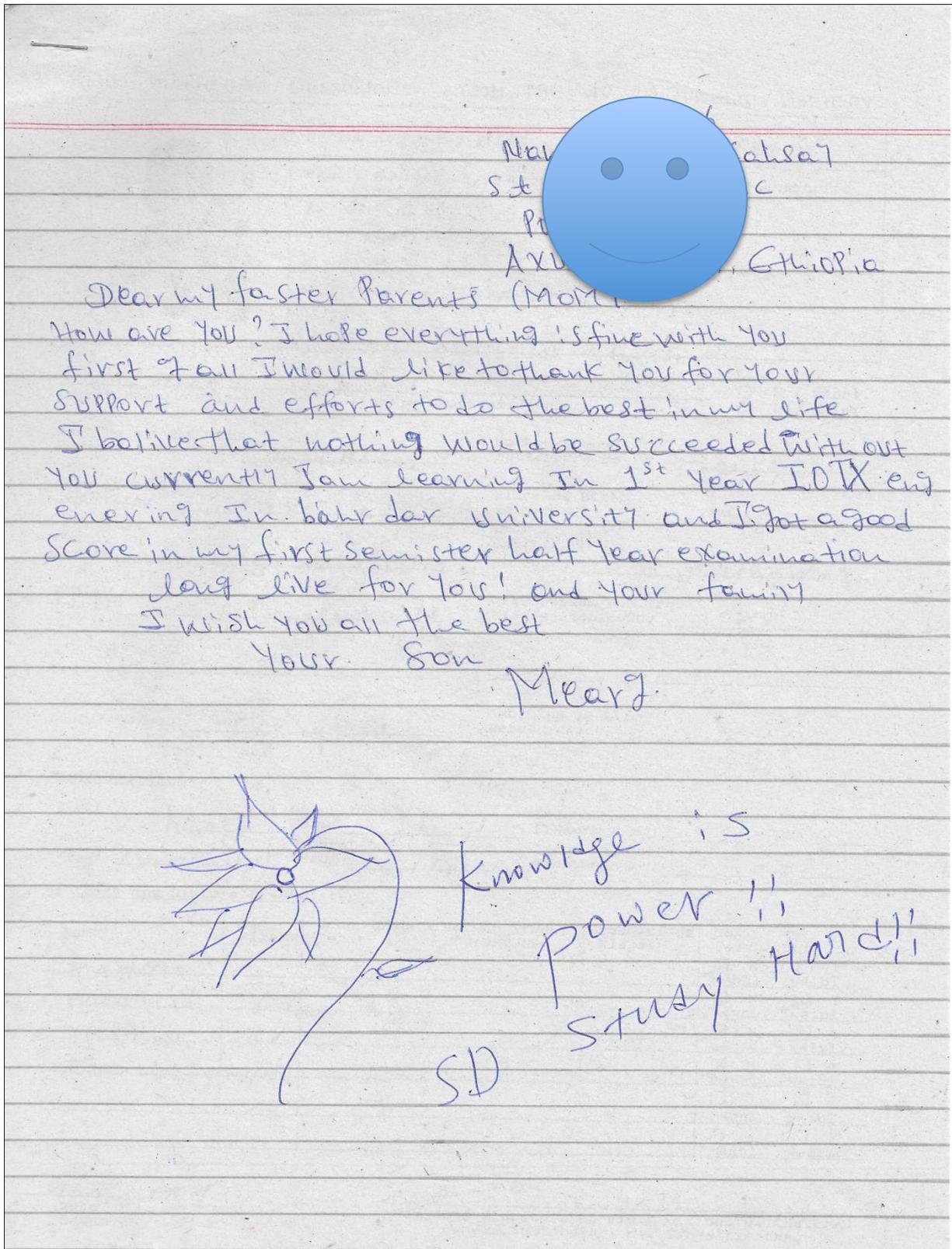
*I've got to reach seventh street: (Natty Dreadlock)
 Natty Dreadlock Bingy Bongo I (Natty Dread)
 Natty dread, Natty Dread, now, (Natty Dread)
 Roots Natty Congo I. (Natty Dread)*



Oh, Natty, Natty,
Natty 21,000 miles away from home, yeah!
Oh, Natty, Natty, And that's a long way
For Natty to be from home.



Don't care what the world seh; (Natty Dread)
 I'n'l couldn't never go astray. (Natty Dread)
 Just like a bright and sunny day: (Natty Dread)



Oh, we're gonna have things our way. (Natty Dread)
 Natty Dread, Natty Dreadlock, (Natty Dreadlock)
 Dreadlock Congo Bongo I. (Natty Dreadlock)

ALPHA & OMEGA SENIORS DAY CARE PROJECT

The Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Nana Oye Lithur has been emphasizing the need to care for the elderly. She is firm in her message that we have a responsibility to our children and the aged. Mathew 6: v31, states "Therefore take no fault saying what shall we eat or what shall we drink or wherewithal shall we be clothed."

During their vibrant years, they were providers and protectors. Now in their twilight years the aged should be loved, protected and cared for.

Mrs. Rita Marley's dream of providing a home for the aged is now a reality through the Alpha & Omega Seniors Day Care Project in Konkonuru, Ghana. In April, the Rita Marley Foundation launched a free pilot for the aged. The facility currently provides in house daycare services for 15-20 elderly persons. A qualified team of Caregivers attend to our guests (as we affectionately refer to the elderly at the home). They are also kept occupied with arts & crafts, gardening and cooking.

Services will be expanded to incorporate the entire Aburi community and to house four (4) seniors overnight.

The Alpha & Omega Seniors Day Care Project is in need of some gardening, baking, kitchen and medical equipment. We welcome all donations.

Should you need further information on the Alpha & Omega Seniors Day Care Project, feel free to contact us through the Rita Marley Foundation website.

Join Us in this Wonderful Move Forward!



Seniors receive snacks from the RMF (Ghana).



Guests (elderly) engaged in an exciting game of cards



Caregivers assisting guests (elderly) under the watchful eyes of Nurse Powell



Guests (elderly) participate in sewing classes

*Don't care what the world seh; (Natty Dreadlock)
I'n'l gonna have things our way. (Natty Dreadlock)
If a egg Natty in a the red - (Natty Dreadlock)
Natty Dread, Natty Dreadlock.*



*Blessed Earthstrong,
Happy Birthday
Mrs. Rita Marley
(Nana Afua Adobea 1)
From Jamaica, Africa,
And the world
We Love You!!!*

