

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.

High Schools Prepping for Esteemed Rita Marley Foundation (JA) Public Speaking Competition



York Castle High School: Bobby Francis

Several high schools in Jamaica will vie for the illustrious Rita Marley Foundation (JA) Public Speaking Title. Now in its third year, the event seeks to develop eloquent orators who could represent their schools and Jamaica at any forum. It is held as part of earthstrong celebrations for Honourable Robert Nesta Marley (Bob Marley). The event will be held on February 17, 2017 at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

Bobby Francis of York Castle High School aims to regain the title. The 14 year old won this year’s competition with two commanding speeches. Impressing judges and wooing a venue overflowing with spectators.

The topics for next year's competition promise to elicit awe inspiring speeches. Participating schools meticulously selected representatives. The topic for the first round, 'What is Jamaica's Greatest Contribution to the World.' Issued by Dr. Rita Marley. The topic for the second leg of competition, will be disclosed after judges have chosen the three finalists. They will have 30 minutes for preparation and 6 minutes delivery time.

Editor: Rita Marley
Writer: Rosemary Duncan

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Bobby Francis
York Castle High School



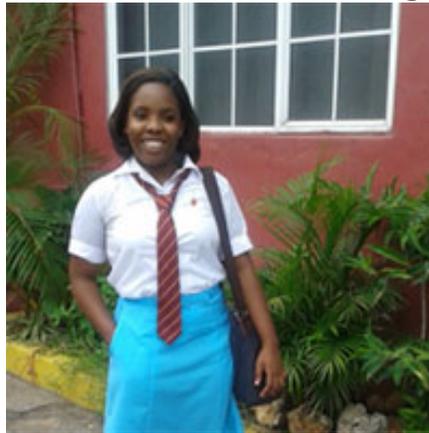
Zoe-Ann Edwards
William Knibb Memorial High



Dravid Reid
Papine High School



Rolando Marlon Alberts
Jamaica College



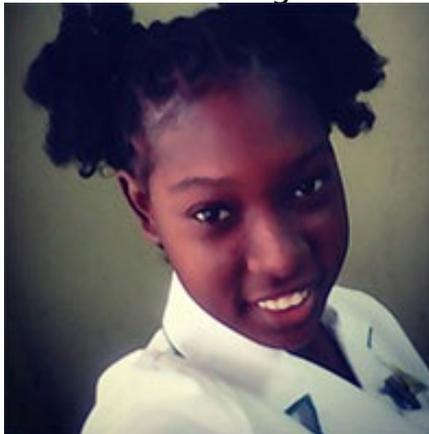
Danelle Mathews
Wolmers Girls High School



Oshnel Bryan
Wolmers Boys High School



Mario Smith
Haile Selassie High School



Aisha Downer
Excelsior High School



Gillian Williams
Glenmuir High School

Additional Schools: Marcus Garvey Technical High (Dennar Johnson)



SPONSORS

Massive Thanks to our sponsors whose immense contributions have assisted with

presentation of the event; Wisynco Group, Spanish Court Hotel, Caribbean Cream, Tastee Ltd, Suzie's Bakery, Devon House, Stationery & Computer Supplies (STATCOM).



(L-R) Amina, Denise, Jan, Eintou, Michael

International Literary Luminaries & Rita Marley Foundation (JA) Children's Day Storytelling Fest

This year, I wish to emphasize the importance of ensuring that the commitments made by the international community to the world's children are extended to a group of children who are often forgotten or overlooked....." Ban Ki Moon United Nations Secretary General

Five internationally acclaimed literary luminaries partnered with the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) for presentation of the storytelling fest in celebration of Universal Children's Day. Almost 80 basic school students (St. Isaacs/Holy Trinity Basic Schools) participated. The event convened at Holy Trinity Basic School on November 21.





Eintou sings Godchild

Revered Jamaican storyteller/orator Amina Blackwood Meeks delighted the audience of bubbly students with African folklore about 'Why Oba the Sky God Left Earth to Live in the Sky.' With popular Caribbean carnival soca tune 'Get Something & Wave,' Amina brought the kids to their feet...Ohhh they heartily danced and waved and pretended they were eating and throwing leftovers on the ground while having a blast. Cause the moral of the story is that human excess; namely, gluttony and pollution has

destroyed the earth. For this reason, we should keep our spaces and places clean. She then led the children in singing " bits of paper, bits of paper, lying on the floor, lying on the floor, makes the place untidy, makes the place untidy, pick them up, pick them up." The spirited students were captivated by the energetic storyteller and her message.

U.S born storyteller, Denise Valentine (awarded 2014 Sankofa Research Award by Linda Goss and Friends of the Artist (FOA) indulged the children in Linda Goss's story of The Frog Who Wanted to be a Singer... "Frog is feeling mighty bad, mighty sad, and mighty frustrated. He wants to be a singer, but in the forest where Frog lives only birds are allowed to sing. After much practice on his lily pad, one day he says to himself, I'm tired of holding all this inside me. (I've got talent and I've got to use it.) I want to sing. I can sing, and I'm going to be a singer! What happens as Frog sets out to achieve his dream surprises everyone, including Frog himself." Denise had the little ones completely immersed in the account of Frog's singing mission.



Jan narrates story





Storytellers greet students

Jan Blake recipient of the British Awards for Storytelling Excellence (BASE), narrated 'Give Me My Yam.' The main character Jordan, digs up a yummy piece of yam while playing in his yard. Little Jordan is elated. Before handing to his mom for cooking, he takes it to the river Denzo for a wash. Unfortunately, the little boy loses the yam. He eventually retrieves it; however, Jordan first has a series of hilarious encounters with various elements; feather, wind, leaf, tree, goat. An exciting children's story. The students laughed and clapped throughout.

Eintou Springer, Trinidadian Poet Laureate and playwright delivered one of her popular music poems titled, 'GodChild.' It reinforces the beauty in every child. The tiny voices quickly joined in singing:

"Godchild come live with me,
 Godchild come live with me,
 Godchild come live with me,
 God's child we all can be.
 La, la, la, la... la, la. (repeat 3 times)"
 La, la, la, la

Scottish storyteller Michael Kerins won the 2008 Scottish Storytelling Centre - Edinburgh Tall Tales Oscar.

He shared his story of 'Weetom and the Bankrobbers.' Before delving into the story, Michael gave students detailed information about Weetom, the leading character in many of his narratives. "So Who is Weetom?" he expressed. Then quickly added, "A long, long, long, long time ago there was a wee boy who had not just one, but five names. His first name was Thomas, his second name was Patrick, his third name was James, his fourth name was O'Neill, and lastly he was called Thumb.



But nobody ever called him any of these names. They only ever called him Weetom. Now, when I say 'they' I mean everybody. When Weetom went to the doctor, on his prescription was written Weetom. When Weetom went on holiday, his passport said Weetom underneath his photograph. And Weetom is wee.

Now, I don't mean that he's wee like a fairy, or an elf, or a goblin, or a sprite, or something magical. No, I mean he's wee. He's not magical; he's ordinary, just like you or me. And if Weetom came into your house, you could pick him up in your hand and he would talk to you. You could pick him up, because he's not heavy, he's very light. And he's very light because he's very small – he's no bigger than the height of a thumb...." The little ones listened with immense interest and truly relished the story.

Michael Kerins gifted copies of 'Weetoom and the Bankrobbers' to the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) and Holy Trinity and St. Isaacs Basic Schools. The Rita Marley Foundation (JA) also provided eats and juices for the students.

School officials expressed sincere thanks for a momentous storytelling festival. Gifting the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) and storytellers with roses, rousing applause and remarkable words.



Students



Wonderful Water What A Blessing!

The Konkonuru community in rural Ghana, West Africa is recipient of a third borehole from Water For Humanity and The Rita Marley Foundation. As a result, the Alpha & Omega Home for the Aged, a facility constructed by Dr. Rita Marley (President/Founder) and the Rita Marley Foundation now has reliable pipe borne water.

Thirteen elderly persons are enrolled in the Seniors Programme at the Alpha & Omega Home for the Aged. The seniors receive healthcare, meals, baths in a safe and loving environment. The home is the only facility in Konkonuru catering to the care of the elderly.



Nana Afua Adobea 1

Words cannot express the depth and breadth of our gratitude to Water For Humanity.



Sealing of borehole cover



Water hygiene/Water conservation Training for Seniors



Assemblyman & Mr. Godfred checking switch



Borehole Committee Members (L-R) Michael Osae, Assemblyman for Konkonuru; Nurse Brenda Powell Rep. Rita Marley Foundation (Ghana); Nurse Mina Amoah, Alpha & Omega Home for the Aged; Nurse Racheal Ankobeah, Alpha



Checking flow of water



“She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.” Proverbs 31:20

In 2000, Dr. Rita Marley was bestowed Queen of Development (Nana Afua Adobeah 1) for Konkonuru. A struggling community in the Ghanaian countryside. She established the Rita Marley Foundation for the betterment and benefit of the community. Its mission, the aged be protected, the infants nourished and cared for.

Nana Afua Adobeah 1 is extraordinarily grateful to the organisations and individuals who have joined in that mission. Heartfelt thanks to Ghanaian philanthropist, Ms. Franka Andoh for partnering with the Rita Marley Foundation (Ghana) to help bring smiles to the most needy children at the Konkonuru Methodist Basic School (nursery/kindergarten). Students were gifted a supply of undergarments/undershirts. They previously went without. Their parents unable to afford those basic items that so many take for granted.

The little ones are blissful and parents expressed the gifts are heaven-sent.



Franka Andoh (philanthropist)



Undergarments/shirts for Konkonuru Basic School students



Gifts to the less fortunate kids

We encourage you to join the Rita Marley Foundation (Jamaica & Ghana) to improve the lives of the needy.

Visit our website
www.ritamarleyfoundation.org

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:16



Want you to know, y'all, can you, can you, can you understand?

©Bob Marley Music Inc.

Musical Celebration to Honour the Elderly

Almost 26 years ago, December 14, 1990, the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons.

It is commemorated on October 1 each year by [raising awareness](#) to issues that impact the [elderly](#). International Day of Older Persons is also a day to express much thanks for the contributions that seniors make to society, our nation and the world.

This year's theme, Take A Stand Against Ageism. Ageism is [stereotyping](#) and discriminating against individuals or groups on the basis of their age.

With sincerity and humility, the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) presented a musical treat as a small token of gratitude to seniors for their service and contributions.

In extolling the elders on behalf of Dr Rita Marley (President/ Founder), Rita Marley Foundation (JA) manager Rosemary Duncan stated, "GOD commanded us to honour thy



(L-R) Rosemary Duncan (Manager Rita Marley Foundation), Rita Marley (President/ Founder), Everald Hemmings (EOC Trustee)



Some elders

mother and thy father. The Rita Marley Foundation honours, respects and loves you. Our mission, The Aged Be protected, the infants nourished & cared for. You pass on great knowledge, skills and wisdom to ensure our culture, traditions and values live on from generation to generation. You are the foundation and root. Without you nations would not bear fruit."

The almost thirty seniors attended the





senior plays instrument



Sister Anna Mariam grooves to the music



playing the waa waa

celebration at the Ganette Mariam Hall at the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC). They nodded in approval and applauded in assent.

The upbeat music from acclaimed percussionist Herman Davis (Bongo Herman) and EOC drummers swiftly led Sister Anna Mariam and other seniors to the stage. Seniors energetically danced, bounced, grooved, to the magnetic rhythm of drums, waa waa, tambourine and cow bell. On impulse they also joined in playing instruments and recited poetry too. On the spur of the moment, Elder Kes Gabre Selassie belted out 'By the Rivers of Babylon' and 'Happy in the Lord.' The others joined in singing. Their energetic voices filled the hall. Their vocals intensified several notches when they sang 'Rasta Man Chant.'

It was a wonderful day for the elders. A celebration filled with love and laughter.



On November 17, University of the West Indies Mona, Events Management Class, presented a Cultural Exposition focusing on Jamaica's rich cultural heritage. Invitation extended to the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) to speak on 'Bob & Rita Marley's Contributions To Reggae Music.'

Speech by Rosemary Duncan (Manager, Rita Marley Foundation(JA))

Jamaica gave birth to reggae music in the late 1960s. A sound that enlightens, educates and entertains. Like sacred scripture reggae directs one to a meditative, contemplative path. Reggae music is a universal language. Sang fluently by those who speak in singular tongue.

King David gave us the Psalms, King Solomon, the book of Proverbs. Reggae King Robert Nesta Marley (Bob Marley) gave Jamaican reggae music to the world.

Bob Marley said "My music will go on forever. Maybe it's a fool say that, but when me know facts me can say facts. My music will go on forever."



Rosemary Duncan

Distinguished guests and students, I bring you warmest greetings from Dr. Rita Marley and family. It is an honour for the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) to participate and speak on Bob & Rita Marley's contribution to reggae music.

Bob Marley is reggae music's most recognized voice and messenger. Before his arrival, reggae was indigenous to the Jamaican shores. Bob Marley brought, reggae music, its message and Jamaica to places far and wide. Paupers and princes, young and old, black, white, Indian, Aborigine and Asian have embraced this universal sound. Jamaica, Bob Marley, Reggae, One Love is in every corner of the globe.

It is said besides every great man, there is a great woman. Bob Marley's wife, Rita, is at his every side. Right, left, back and front. From the struggling and suffering times in Trench Town.



Teenage souls in love, with big musical dreams, enormous talent and no cash. As matriarch of the Marley family preserving and continuing Bob Marley's legacy.

He was gifted with a unique songwriting and singing style that captivated hearts and minds. Bob Marley epitomizes love, hope, peace, unity and justice to millions. His music a remedy to the poor, oppressed, suffering and downtrodden. Bob Marley comforts them saying, "Don't worry about a thing, Cause every little thing gonna be alright." (Don't Worry Bout A Thing)

The voice for the marginalized, Bob scolds the oppressors as he laments, "... Didn't my people before me slave for this country? Now you look me with that scorn, then you eat up all my corn. We gonna chase those crazy bald heads out of town!" In 'One Drop' Bob Marley gives hope to the masses as he chants "I know JAH never let's us down."

When the Wailers separated in 1974, Rita Marley toured the world with Bob as part of the I-Three, a trio that provided harmonies to his songs.

The 1970s were politically violent and volatile in Jamaica. Staunch supporters of JLP and PNP waged war against each other. In an effort to bring unity and calm, a concert themed Smile Jamaica, was organized for December 5, twelve days before the 1976 general elections. On December 3, two days prior to the event, Bob and Rita were shot by gun wielding thugs while rehearsing at 56 Hope Road. Bob Marley, wounded in the shoulder and Rita Marley, in the head. The attack is believed to have been politically motivated.

Despite the assault on their lives and injuries sustained, a bandaged Bob and Rita, bravely performed at the National Heroes Park before an audience of 80,000 JLP and PNP supporters.

When persons queried why they performed given the attempt on their lives, a resilient and self-willed Bob expressed, "The people who are trying to make this world worse aren't taking a day off. How can I?"

In 1978, Jamaica was still torn by brutal political tensions. To quell hostility between JLP and PNP supporters, a One Love Peace Concert was organized for April 22. Bob Marley the headline performer.

Given the 1976 assault on Bob's life, persons questioned his acceptance of the invite. A defiant Bob emphatically stated, "My life is only important if me can help plenty people. If my life is just for me I don't want it. My life is for the people. That's the way me is." Tens of thousands attended. Towards the close of his performance, his band playing 'Jammin,' Rita, Marcia and Judy swaying to its rhythm, Bob Marley spontaneously invited political leaders Mr. Michael Manley and Mr. Edward Seaga on stage. Bob speaking seemingly in a trance stated, "I just want you to shake hands and show the people that were gonna make them right, we're gonna unite." He took their hands, joined them over his head. The crowd thundered in approval,; everyone overjoyed, in one harmony. That incredible gesture perpetually cemented Bob Marley's status as the symbol of love, peace and unity.



Bob Marley rose from Ghetto kid to Global Icon. He also has tremendous love for Africa. Thus penned several songs in ode to the continent. Bob keenly supported Rhodesia's fight for independence. His song 'Zimbabwe' was the battle cry for ZANLA rebels in their fight for independence.

"So arm in arms, with arms, we'll fight this little struggle,
'Cause that's the only way we can overcome our little trouble.
"Africans a-liberate Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe);I'n'l a-liberate Zimbabwe."

The nation successfully attained independence. A celebratory concert held on April 17, 1980, the eve of the nation's birth. Bob Marley the only foreign musician billed to perform. He chartered a plane and paid all expenses for his family and band.

International journalists completely booked out all upscale hotels. Bob Marley stayed at the dingy Skyline Hotel on the borders of the capitol, Harare. The concert venue, Rufaro stadium accommodates 20,000. One hundred thousand jubilant fans attended. Therefore thousands were outside.

The instant Bob appeared they all charged into the venue. Frightened police launched teargas. Resulting in a chaos. Band members ran for cover. Only Bob Marley continued to perform unruffled and unmoved. Rita Marley said, "Bob was still in his element, he didn't realise what was happening around him," "So when we got back on stage, this is what Bob said to us: 'Now I know who the true revolutionary is.'"

On July 21, 1979, the Amandla—Festival of Unity— was held at Harvard Stadium in Boston, U.S.A. The event goals, to bring awareness to and support for, black South Africans in their fight for freedom and to stop racism in Boston. Bob Marley's participation drew thousands in attendance. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised for the cause.

He wrote the song No Woman No Cry as a tribute to his wife Rita. He sings "No Woman No Cry....Oh, while I'm gone, Everything's gonna be all right!"

Bob Marley passed away on May 11, 1981. Rita Marley, matriarch of the Marley family, ensured the Bob, his music and message lives on. In 1986, she had the vision and wisdom to transform Bob Marley's house at 56 Hope Road into the Bob Marley Museum. She embarked on a successful solo career. Releasing several albums and hit singles; including, Grammy nominated album 'We Must Carry On' and #1 hit single 'One Draw,' which has sold over 3 million copies. 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, Rita Marley continues to make manifest commitment to the works of Bob Marley; their children and all peoples – by fulfilling a mission to make this world a better place through humanitarian works and music.

Bob Marley said, "Dem ago tired fi see mi face, cyan get me outta the race..."



Every year his accolades and awards increase:

- 1976: Band of the Year (Rolling Stone).
- Exodus in 1977, which established his worldwide reputation and produced his status as one of the world's best-selling artists of all time, with sales of more than 75 million records.
- June 1978: Awarded the Peace Medal of the Third World from the United Nations.
- February 1981: Awarded Jamaica's third highest honour, the Jamaican Order of Merit.
- March 1994: Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
- 1999: Album of the Century for Exodus by Time Magazine.
- February 2001: A star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
- February 2001: Awarded Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.
- 2004: Rolling Stone ranked him No. 11 on their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.
- 2004: Among the first inductees into the UK Music Hall of Fame
- "One Love" named song of the millennium by BBC.
- Voted as one of the greatest lyricists of all time by a BBC poll.
- 2010: Catch a Fire inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame (Reggae Album).
- Streets, boulevards and public holidays held in his honour in countries all over the world
- Rita Marley has also amassed numerous awards and recognitions:
 - 1996 Order of Distinction (OD) Government of Jamaica
 - 2000 Nana Afua Adobea 1 (Queen of Development), Konkonkuru Ghana
 - 2004 Ghana Personality of the Year, Ministry of Tourism
 - 2011 Honourable Marcus Garvey Lifetime Awards, Caribbean American Heritage Awards
 - 2013 Living Legends Award, International Women's Forum
 - 2014 Caribbean Hall of Fame Inductee
 - 2015 Living Legends Award, African Women of Excellence Awards Committee
 - 2015 Honorary Doctorate Degree, University of the West Indies, Mona
 - 2016 Most Influential African Diaspora Leaders International Diaspora Engagement Network Platform

"My music will go on forever. Maybe it's a fool say that, but when me know facts me can say facts. My music will go on forever." Bob Marley

Thank you all.
Jah Bless & One Love!



Empowering Vulnerable Girls

Mary's Child is home for nineteen (19) young girls, ages 13-18. Most are adolescent mothers through rape, incest and carnal abuse. The home provides residents with counseling, education and training.

In its mission to assist vulnerable women and children, the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) works closely with Mary's Child Home, imparting life enhancing skills and training for residents.

For this reason, a Healthcare Workshop centered on self-esteem and education was recently held. Dr. Marshall Tulloch Reid (Endocrinologist) and Ms. Jean Tulloch Reid (Health Educator/Counselor/Family Life Specialist) partnered with the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) for the session.

Mary's Child was established twenty four years ago. It's mandate, to provide a spiritual environment, proper residential care and transform the lives of vulnerable girls 13 –18 years of age, who are victims of rape, incest and carnal abuse. However, in 2008 – 2009 a 10 year old and four, 11 year old girls entered institution.



Adolescent Mother Thanks Ms. Tulloch Reid

To open the event, Facilitator, Ms. Jean Tulloch Reid taught the young ladies a song to boost self-confidence. Like a choir they all sang out with immense passion and zeal:

" I am special, I am special, So are you, So are you
I am very special, You are very special
God loves you, God loves you"

Ms. Jean Tulloch Reid emphasized the importance of building positive self-esteem and discarding negative self-esteem. She stated positive self-esteem, "... will assist with achieving your goals. Good self-esteem gives hope and makes us resilient."

The residents were asked their career goals: "Correctional officer" one replied with conviction. "A teacher" a few answered. Several said "I want to be a lawyer." The Rita Marley Foundation (JA) and facilitators advised them of the requisite qualifications for making their goals a reality.



Ms. Tulloch Reid affirmed, "No child is an accident." "Although some experiences are meant to harm you, God turns them around. Through parenting they have become partners with God in creation. A responsibility that lasts a lifetime. Choose friends who bring out the best in you and encourage you."

The young ladies learned various healing strategies. They were also asked to inhale and shout the positive things they want in life. The words happiness, peace, health echoed through the room. They were also asked to exhale and let out the bad things they want to rid themselves of. The words sadness, depression, low self-esteem reverberated through the room.

In closing they sang glorious songs and immensely thanked Dr. Rita Marley, the Rita Marley Foundation (JA), Dr. Marshall Tulloch Reid and Ms. Jean Tulloch Reid for a meaningful workshop.

Photos of residents are disallowed for their safety & security reasons.

HEARTFELT THANKS FOR A YEAR FILLED WITH HARAMBE & BLESSINGS!

SINCERE THANKS to all our sponsors, donors and well wishers for assisting with making the Rita Marley Foundation's mission a reality. Together we uplifted the less fortunate, empowered the youth, cared for the elderly.

As we continue on our mission, we anticipate your involvement and support in 2017.

[Online donations could be sent here.](#)

Wholehearted Thanks & Wishing you & yours

Melkam Lidet
(Merry Christmas)
Jah Bless & One Love

