

# 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.



2018 Finalists-form left- Immaculate High School's Tanisha Francis, York Castle High School's Joel Lyn, Jamaica College's Rolando Albert, Wolmer's Boy's High School's Trevon Fletcher

## A Monumental Public Speaking Competition for High Schoolers

For four consecutive years, the Rita Marley Foundation(JA) has held highly successful public speaking competitions among high schoolers across Jamaica. The aim, to develop outstanding oratory skills and ability to represent Jamaica regionally and internationally.

Former winners have excelled academically and in the oratory arena. Pursuing studies in medicine and winning Optimist International Caribbean District Oratorical Contest.

The 5th event is slated for February 15, 2019. According to Rosemary Duncan, manager at the Rita Marley Foundation(JA), "it will be monumental. With cash sponsorship support from reputable individuals and organizations; including, Leeds family in Las Vegas, South African High Commission, Jamaica Fire Equipment Limited, National Council on Reparations (NCR) and Centre for Reparations Research (CRR), Stationery & Computer Supplies, Wisynco Group, Spanish Court Hotel, Devon House, Caribbean Cream(Kremi), 876 Terrace Bar & Grill."

Students have been assigned an interesting and stimulating

Editor: Rita Marley  
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Dec. 2018-Feb. 2019

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topic for the first segment, 'Of all the forms that reparation should take, repatriation to Africa is the most important.' Orators are free to support or oppose. Six (6) minutes time limit will be allotted to each speaker.

Immediately following the first round, judges will select three finalists. Who will be issued an impromptu topic for delivery. The first place winner will be awarded \$50,000 cash, plus other prizes. The second and third, will also receive significant cash and prizes.

A few sponsors shared why they invested in the event. Mrs. Donna Leeds said, "I'm excitedly coming onboard to support the Rita Marley Foundation(JA) in its outstanding and ongoing efforts to nurture & support of the youths in the competition. It's Such a tiny gesture on my part, since I'm so far from home, to give some financial support to those with dreams & ambitions."



*Professor Verene Shepherd, Chairperson Centre of Reparations Research, U.W.I presents sponsorship cheque to Ms. Rosemarv Duncan*

Professor Verene Shepherd, Director, CRR & Co-Chair, NCR expressed, "The Centre for Reparation Research is pleased to collaborate with the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) in the Schools' Public Speaking Competition in light of the topic chosen for the 2019 Competition. Repatriation has long been regarded as a right for all African people forcefully relocated to the Americas and is the 3rd demand on the CARICOM Ten point Action Plan for Reparatory Justice." Tyrone Gunnie, Actg High Commissioner, South African High Commission stated, "It gives the South African High

Commission great pleasure to support this important project by the Rita Marley Foundation. Not only does this project support youth to become more confident public speakers, it also challenges them to broaden their knowledge base."

The following outstanding orators have earned spots in the competition:



**Joel Lyn**  
*York Castle High School (Reigning Champion)*

**Darla Campbell**  
*Campion College*

**Saevion McFadden**  
*Ardenne High School*





**Lorena Eschoe**  
*Immaculate  
Conception  
High School*



**Trevon Fletcher**  
*Wolmer's Boys' High  
School*



**Sashae Campbell**  
*William Knib  
Memorial  
High School*



**Antonio Webba**  
*Marcus Garvey  
Technical High  
School*



**Tamoy Campbell**  
*Wolmer's Girls' High  
School*



**Jahne Mattis**  
*St. Hugh's High  
School*

**We anticipate an exceptional event!**



## Ananse Babies Storytelling Festival An Awesome Success

For the 2nd Annual Rita Marley Foundation (JA) Ananse Babies Storytelling Festival, a team of notable tellers joined the Foundation for a memorable celebration. In observance of Universal Children's Day. The event held at Holy Trinity Basic School on November 21, attended by 80 basic schoolers (St. Isaacs/Holy Trinity Basic Schools).



Caption: Dr. Eintou Springer (Trinidad) & students dance



Caption: Jordan (Great Britain) tells tale of the Possum

The opening act, British storyteller, Jordan, captivated the students with an exciting story of a naive possum whose mum sent him to pick berries. Unfortunately, he first had to pass by a monster to get to the fruits. The other forest animals advised he chase the creature by hurling rocks, making horrible facial expressions, shaking his fists and yelling at the monster. All attempts terribly failed. As the monster responded likewise; but with greater force and terror. Finally, the despondent possum returned home empty handed. Tearfully telling his mom what had happened. She encouraged her son to return for the berries. This time she stressed..." You should smile at the monster, cheerfully wave at it." So the possum reluctantly left home again. However, carefully followed mother's instructions He vigorously waved at the monster, the monster wholeheartedly waved back at him. The possum sweetly smiled at the monster, the monster sincerely smiled back at him. Ooooh the little possum felt brave and confident as he waved and smiled past the cheerful creature. He picked endless berries. The big basket full and overflowing. Then happily brought home the fruits to his mom. Who baked him





Storytellers in their element-(from left)Dr.Amina Blackwood Meeks (Jamaica) & Jan Blake(United Kingdom)

a delicious berry pie. The moral of the story...**Show love and kindness. Because love and kindness conquers all.**

Jan Blake recipient of the British Awards for Storytelling Excellence (BASE), narrated 'Old Lady.' A story of an elderly lady with a rickety walking stick, who ingeniously outwitted a wolf, tiger and bear. Jan mimicking the intonation of an aged woman cried out, "Rickety tick, ricky tick tick, here I come on my walking stick." Then huffing and puffing like a big bad wolf, she startled the little listeners, as she barked out, "Where are you going old lady?.....Yummy, I'm going to have you for breakfast this morning." The old lady responded in the sweetest voice, "Oh, oh, oh, Mr. Wolf. Don't be silly I am going up that hill to see my daughter. She will give me things to eat and drink. Then I will be nice and fat and juicy, then you can eat me."

"Mmmmmmm....Aaaah ok, sounds good," the wolf howled. "Bye, bye, wolfy, wolfy"...the little old lady stated. As she hurriedly departed.

Then ventured further up hill. A broad black bear confronted her grunting, "I'm going to have you for breakfast this morning." The old lady shrieked out, "No, no, no, Mr. Bear. Don't be silly I am too skinny. I going up that hill to see my daughter. She will give me food and drink. Then I will be nice, fat and juicy. Then you can eat me!"

"Ummmmmm.....Alright," the bear rambled. "Bye, bye, beary, beary"...the little old lady scurried along.

Further up hill, she encountered a powerful tiger that chuffed, "little old lady, you will be my breakfast."

No, No, No, Mr. Tiger. Don't be silly. I going up that hill to see my daughter. She will give me delicious food and lovely drink. Then I will be nice, fat and juicy. Then you can eat me!"

"Hmmmm, well ok" the tiger roared. "Bye, bye, tigy, tigy"...the little old lady charmingly said.



Upon arrival at her daughters home, the old lady fulljoyed a nutritious meal of rice and peas, curry chicken and pumpkin soup. While narrating her trek to the daughter.

Who devised a creative plan to outwit the three hungry animals awaiting the old lady's return.

She cleaned out a huge pumpkin and carefully placed the little old lady in there. Tightly securing the lid. Then rolled the pumpkin down hill. As the old lady sang "Here I come, here I come. In my pumpkin, here I come."

First the bear, then the tiger, curiously approached the pumpkin exclaiming..."Hmmm...what is there? It looks like a pumpkin, but smells like the old lady." They sniffed and sniffed the pumpkin. Then slowly left and went on their way.

However, the cunning wolf came along and huffed and puffed at the big pumpkin. Then sniffed and said "Hmmm...what is there? It looks like a pumpkin, but smells like the old lady." But he did not turn away. Instead the big bad wolf ferociously and furiously scratched the pumpkin shell. The old lady was frightened. But not for long. For she suddenly remembered her rickety walking stick. When the wolf clawed open the pumpkin top, the old lady lashed him with all her might- with her rickety, tick, walking stick. The greedy wolf whimpered, whined and sprinted off into the dense forest. While the old lady safely returned home singing " Rickety tick, ricky tick tick, here I come on my walking stick."

Dr. Eintou Springer, Trinidadian Poet Laureate and playwright delivered a powerful song titled, 'We Are the Children of the Sun.'

"We are the children of the sun,  
It shines upon our face,  
Like the beauty of our people,  
The great history of our race.

So sing the song, beat the drum.  
Let all the people know  
The beauty of our people  
The story of our race.  
The great history of our race  
(repeat 2 times)"



*Fulljoying the festival*

Dr. Amina Blackwood Meeks, Jan Blake and Dr. Eintou Springer also had the bubbly children sing and dance to cultural tunes; including, the traditional Jamaican "Good Morning" and "God's Child."

School officials and students extended humongous thanks to Dr. Rita Marley, Rita Marley Foundation(JA), Dr. Amina Blackwood Meeks and team of storytellers.



## Educating Children About the Environment



Michael Rieback(Hope Zoo) with Jamaican Boa. Mother & son look on.

Students, from three basic schools(St.Tekle Hammonait, St. Isaacs, Holy Trinity), their parents and school officials, participated in an exciting and enlightening Environmental Education Workshop, on September 11, to coincide with the Ethiopian New Year.

The Rita Marley Foundation(JA), Urban Development Corporation(UDC), Hope Zoo and Tastee Ltd, collaborated for a wonderful event, at Ganette Mariam Hall, Maxfield Avenue.



Facilitator, Ms. Danae Vacciana(UDC Environment Coordinator), kicked off the programme with a power point presentation focused on the detrimental effects of plastics. She shared that the material lasts for 1000 years, in the environment, and is one of the most dangerous pollutants. Affecting animals on land and in waters. Including, those species human beings consume; such as, fish, poultry, cattle, et cetera. Thus making consumers ill.

Plastics, she reiterated, destroy beautiful beaches across Jamaica. Participants were encouraged to recycle plastics(bottles etc) into creative art; for example, flower pots.

For the activity segment, attendees learned how animals help to maintain a healthy environment. They were encouraged to protect the environment, by protecting the animals. Assistant facilitator, Mr. Milton Riebok (Hope Zoo) and Ms. Vacciana had students, parents and teachers interact with animals: crocodiles, snakes(Jamaican and African boas), parrot and turtle. Surprisingly, parents and some teachers were initially fearful of the snakes and crocodiles. Hesitant to touch or hold them. While the students bravely held the creatures.

Mr. Riebok and Ms. Vacciana, shared that crocodiles do not attack humans. They defend themselves, when attacked. They clean up rivers and eat carcasses of other species. The





Facilitator, Ms. Danae Vacciana(UDC Environment Coordinator) shows kiddies a crocodile

facilitators further added, snakes eat rats and mice, which spread disease to humans. Birds assist the environment by spreading seeds they eat from various trees. The seeds sprout, producing additional trees to serve humankind.



Students thankful to the Rita Marley Foundation(JA) for a wonderful workshop





Students & parents learn how birds help the environment



Snacking on Yummy Tastee Patties

Participants learned the following points concerning interacting with animals:

- Look at them
- Learn about them
- Let them go
- Leave them alone

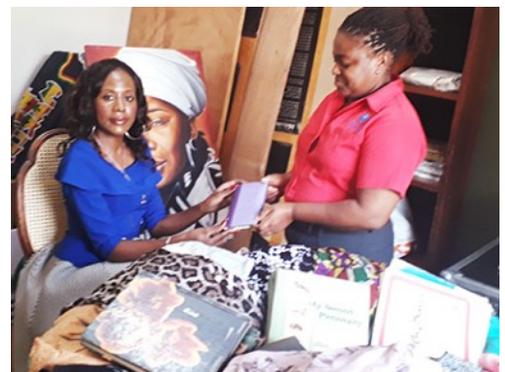
**The Rita Marley Foundation(JA) and Jamaica Fire Equipment Ltd. partnered, year round, to gift the young and the aged.**



Deacon Grant accepts clothing for elderly at Abuna Yeshaq's Home for the Aged.



From left: Rosemary Duncan, Manager at the Rita Marley Foundation(JA) & Tracey Ann Reid, Assistant Administrator, Mary's Child Home for adolescent mothers. Right: Books for St. Hamonait Basic & St. Isaac's Basic Schools





*Dr. Kimani Borland*

### **Wise Work Yields Success**

The Rita Marley Foundation(JA) continues to applaud Dr. Kimani Borland. The Foundation assisted Kimani, through scholarship funding, to pursue studies in naturopathic medicine at Bastyr University, U.S.A. Huge Thanks to Ms. Stephanie Marley (Director) for her support.

Commencing 2019, Dr. Borland will volunteer at the Rita Marley Foundation, to assist in its mission, to provide quality healthcare to those less fortunate. HARAMBE!

### **Good Works in Ghana, West Africa**

The Rita Marley Foundation(Ghana) launched 'Nana Rita's Reading Time.' An exciting literary activity for children in the Konkonuru community.

While the elderly at Rita Marley Foundation's Alpha & Omega Home for the Aged maintain sound health through creative activity.



*Senior dances*



*Children in the Konkonuru community*





Creative Artwork



Drawing & colouring activity

## **Harambe Hats Off To You, For A Fantastic Year!**

Hats off to you! Our sponsors, collaborators, well wishers.

In 2018, the Rita Marley Foundation fulfilled it's purpose.

Through your splendid support & awesome assistance.

We are incredibly thankful to you...all of you! Hearty Thanks again, for a very remarkable year.

Together we look forward to 2019 with great hope & works ahead.

To nurture the youth, uplift the vulnerable & care for the aged.

Harambe!

Kindly send [online donations here](#).



**Melkam Lidet (Merry Christmas) & Melkam Addis Amet (Happy New Year)  
Jah Bless, One Love.  
HARAMBE!**

