



Published by the Jamaica Association of Northern California

Volume 4 - October 2000

## Letter from the JANC President

Dear JANC Members and Friends



If you did not join us for our Independence celebration, you missed it! The Honorary Barbara Gloudon, our guest speaker was "live" and direct. Her humor and down to earth delivery of her topic, "Home is where the Heart is" received standing ovation and was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately because I was the MC I did not and could not take copious notes. As a result, I was unable capture and now unable to share with you some of her salient points. Let me just say, nobody thus far has asked for a refund.

Mrs. Gloudon and her daughter Anya reported having a great time. Thanks to David Houghton, Vice President, NAJASSO; Roy Davidson, President of Jamaica Awareness Association Los Angeles; Donnie Dawson, Jamaica Tourist Board Los Angeles who met Mrs. Gloudon and her daughter in Los Angeles upon arrival. They facilitated her overnight stay and got them off safely the next day up to us in the Bay area. Thanks to Northern California Jamaica Tourist Board representative, Dave Hoshin for his help and support. Dave arranged for air transportation and joined me in meeting them at the airport. Peter McKenzie, our Treasurer and Tennyson Williams, Vice President, immediately took her on a driving tour of Oakland. Thank you to

(Continued page 2)

## HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

The following article written by Hon Barbara Gloudon after her visit to the Bay area was published in the Jamaican Observer August 18, 2000. It is reprinted here for you.

HERE'S ONE FOR YOU. Why do we - Ja people seem able to prosper away from home, to show our best to the world, to take charge, to act nobly, to be the best we are, but, here on fe we owna soil, we seem paralyzed? Across the globe, wherever there is progress, you're sure to find us, in the midst of the action. Why we can't do it here?

Anyway, let me tell you about another place where Ja. People set down roots and are flourishing:

Last week this time, I had a glimpse of life in Silicon Valley, that California place which has become synonymous with new-age progress and prosperity, the place where a young person with a bright idea and an aptitude for hard work can make a fortune faster than the old Gold Rush miners whose wagons once rolled across the lands now transformed into freeways. Here vehicles speed up and down, relentlessly, all hours of night and day.

Without a motor vehicle in that part of the world, forget it. However, my hosts - Jamaicans - all had no such problems. You know how we love top of the line things already, so brief though the time of our visit (last Thursday to Sunday) we covered many miles in fine style. We were visiting with members of the Jamaica

Association of Northern California, most of whom live in the area which is called Silicon Valley, a series of small townships sited on high-priced real estate, housing the heart of computer technology.

It is a place where every ear is attached to a cell phone, where million-dollar business is conducted from cars and homes, where e-commerce and e-everything predominate. It is the place of the future, where new ideas for revolutionizing the world are spawned and the brightest and the best can become the richest overnight.

There are Jamaicans right in the middle of the action, fulfilling the home-town promise. "If ah egg, we inna de red." You know we Ja. People already. Just give us the chance and we're in the centre of things, hence we're there in the home of the I.T. revolution and doing well as we always seem to do, wherever we're planted on Foreign soil, from Colon Man days to colonization of England and now tek-over of North America.

THE JAMAICA ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA was established in 1975 in the San Francisco Bay area "to provide a permanent organization to bring together Jamaicans residing in the area and to foster interaction and communication between themselves and their homeland. Because they're so far away (this is no one-day Miami - style stopover) they have to work harder at making the linkages with home.

(Continued on pages 2 & 3)

(Presidents letter continued)

Tennyson and Peter who were pressed into service at the last minute. Later that evening News Anchor, Joan Savoury on Soul Beat, interviewed her. Thank you Joan and owner of Soul Beat, Mr. Chuck Jackson for the opportunity. Her appearance generated lots of phone calls to our information line for tickets. We followed with dinner the following day at the Marriott Hotel in Fremont. After dinner Ms. Gloudon personally interviewed each of the dinner guests. The interviews were played in Jamaica on her talk show Hot Line the following week. Thank you to Mr. Seymour Parchment, owner of Pepperpot Restaurant for the great food Saturday morning. The following day we again enjoyed the company of Ms. Gloudon up close and personal at my home. She was joined by many of our members for a grand finale to a great weekend.

Ms. Gloudon returned to Jamaica and arranged a meeting with Minister of Technology, Philip Paulwell with the Executive Board. Our Vice President, Tennyson Williams attended on my behalf and have provided a synopsis of the meeting in this newsletter. The objective of the meeting was to see how our Association could work with the Jamaica government in the area of technology. At our next Executive Meeting, September 17<sup>th</sup> we will be developing a strategic plan to accomplish this objective. If you work in the Silicon Valley in the technology area, we are looking for your expertise. I invite you to join us and help us draft our strategic plan.

We now need to rap up the financial area of the Independence Dance. We have outstanding dance tickets and raffle tickets. Preliminary accounting of revenue shows that we may not have made our goal of \$3000 for our scholarship funds from the sale of raffle tickets. We need to have all sold and unsold dance and raffle tickets returned. If you have these tickets, you will be receiving a phone call, reminder postcard or e-mail asking you to return the tickets. Please respond promptly. If you are reading this newsletter and have tickets, don't wait for our reminder. Please send monies or tickets now. There are bills to be paid and I need to have an accurate accounting of our funds.

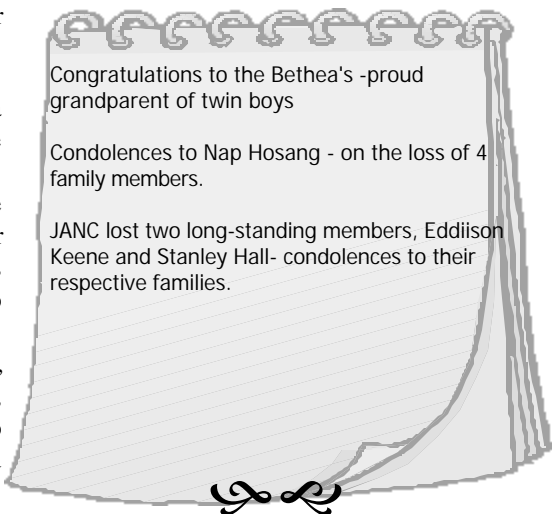
Finally, I could not close without thanking Dr. Newton Gordon, Honorary Consul, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Douglas and the 131 guests who attended our celebration. On the night, Dr. Gordon challenged the audience to match his donation of \$500 to the scholarship fund. Mr. & Mrs. Mark Douglas who by the way were not JANC members, but guest of members Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Silvera, immediately matched with \$500. The audience came through with \$500 and later Mr. & Mrs. Douglas sent us an additional \$500. This additional generosity allowed us to add three more \$500 scholarships to the \$3000 we committed to awarding.

On the horizon is our Christmas Party, a time we reserve for members to celebrate the year and the holidays. Check the website for the details as we get closer to the holidays. All the best to our students returning to school. I leave you with this thought, "some people make things happen, some watch things happen, while others wonder what has happened."

Walk good until next time.

Denise

***From the  
Secretary's Notepad***



**(Home is Where continued)**

However, thanks to advances in information technology, it is easier to track

what's going on. They listen to Hotline by Internet and keep up with the news with greater ease than before but there is still nothing to beat personal contact, especially as the news coming out of here leans heavily on the negative. They know little or nothing of any advancement positive development.

Last Saturday night, when they met for their annual Independence celebration (which yours truly had the honour to address) it was marked by the pleasure of friendship rekindled, reminiscences of the old days backa yard, hopes expressed for a brighter future.

Like everyone else living abroad, the family in Northern California have had their fill of stories about the dark side of Jamaica - the crime, the economy, the sins of politicians, the excesses of the Police, the tyranny of the deportees and more, including bizarre rumours, particularly about people in power. Generally, the view from out there is that home has gone to hell inna bankra basket and yet, when the occasion arises, everyone is eager to relive the good old days, to revisit their roots, to seek out and seize on anything which could offer hope, to wish nothing but the best for Ja. Many feel that the Jamaican government is unaware of the potential for the nation's advancement if they would harness the energies of those of our people Out There who still want good for their homeland. They feel that the authorities back here need to do a drastic-revision of the way we reach out to our extended family in this age of enhanced communication.

They wanted to know where are we in the technology revolution. Are our children into the computer age yet? What are the hopes for e-commerce, for jobs in cyber-industry? Why is it so difficult for them to get Jamaican goods to buy in their part of the world? Since we have a balance of payment problem, they argue, why aren't we exporting more?

They ask, what is the country doing to capitalize on the world's fascination with the name "Jamaica?" It's not just our music which is being ripped off but the

**(Home Is Where continued)**

food and other aspects of our culture and we seem powerless to profit from it. All is not lost however. Tourism to Jamaica out of the Los Angeles gateway seems to be growing, thanks to the determined efforts of the Jamaica Tourist Board and Air Jamaica. The Air J. flights to and from L.A. were capacity - full on both legs of my journey. On the way back, a fellow passenger was the rescue dog, brought in for the Claudia Kirschhoch search.

THE MEMBERS OF THE JA. FAMILY out there in the West are spread out in many small communities. Travel time to the place of celebration last Saturday night for some participants ranged from twenty minutes to two and a half hours, but the pull of the black, green and gold was strong enough to bring together a group representative of every parish. Official greetings were brought by the Honorary Consul, fellow Jamaican Dr. Newton Gordon, a dental surgeon trained in Canada who re-located to the States many years ago.

Some have been living out of Ja. for as much as thirty years and over. Others are settlers of more recent vintage. One or two came there via England, like the longest established member who was heading back to London for a visit the day of our meeting. Others started out on the more popular East Coast, then headed West. Our "family members" out there in the little towns nestled in the folds and valleys of hills which, at this time of year are as parched as dry corn, maintain the Jamaican tradition of "being in charge," the inevitable "supervisors."

The president of the Association, Denise McCallaCreary, who has family ties in Bois Content, St. Catherine, is a still - young woman due to retire from the United States Navy shortly with the rank of Colonel, an achievement noteworthy for a woman and an immigrant. Tennyson Williams, her vice-president, is a successful businessman who originates from Kingston.

Treasurer Peter McKenzie of Clay Ground, St. Ann, went from the HEART Academy, Runaway Bay to being an investment and insurance executive in Oakland, and so on.

Old and not so old, young and up-coming, they bring to the Californian society that energy and will to succeed which marks out the sons and daughters of Jamaica, still one of the most amazing (and infuriating) countries on earth, we all agree.

The Californian-Jamaicans are conscious of "giving back" to progress at home. They award scholarships annually to students of Jamaican schools. This year, one student at Shortwood Teachers College, seven at UWI and five at Denbigh Comprehensive High will receive assistance with their tuition, made possible from the proceeds of fund-raising events like the Independence reunion.

Trevor Creary heads the scholarship committee. Air Jamaica and the Jamaica Grande, Ocho Rios, facilitated a major raffle prize, which was part of the fund-raising.

For how long associations like this will be able to keep their bonds with home is for time to tell. The emotion is not the same for a new generation but, for their parents, Jamaica's Independence still holds meaning and opportunity to celebrate and that we did in Oakland, last Saturday night.

P.S. The National Association of Jamaican Organizations Overseas (NAJASO) will have their annual get-together in Los Angeles next week. Audley Shaw and Phillip Paulwell will go from Ja. to the convention, to bring the two sides of the unending Jamaica story.



**COMING UP!!**

October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
Reggae in the Park  
SF Golden Gate Park

October 14<sup>th</sup>  
Peter Tosh Birthday Celebration  
Maritime Hall- SF



**Diary Of A  
24-year-old Ghetto Youth**

Claude Mills, Contributor

DO YOU know the substance of fear?

I know fear. It is my constant companion. I am a member of an endangered species, I am a Jamaican male under the age of 25. There is no guarantee that I will live to see my 25th birthday. Today may be Independence Day but I feel no joy. It's just another day in the ghetto. Another day of pain.

Just last week, I attended the funeral of Mikey, one of my friends, stabbed to death by his 14 year-old girlfriend (only 14, I know). It was supposedly in self-defense, he beat her regularly. Once, he had beaten her with an iron pipe, she urinated blood for a week. Mikey's friends are not amused. They speak of revenge. She will have to move out of the area soon.

I have three suits, yet I don't have an office job. The suits are for the funerals that I attend, not for relatives who have died in accidents, or succumbed to disorders associated with advanced age. More often than not, the funerals are for men my age, young guys who ought to have their whole lives stretching out before them, but instead, are imprisoned in caskets.

My life has become a slow funeral march. I have grown accustomed to the fanfare, the marching band, the procession, the dark hearse, the fake tears, the wailing, the last minute dramatics. I no longer cry for my friends, neither in public nor in private.

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

You see, the funeral march is not just for the dead, it is for the

**(Continued page 4)  
(Diary continued)**

living as well. It is the rehearsal for our eventual demise.

Both my parents are dead to me. My father killed my mother in a jealous fit of rage 12 years ago. I raised my brother by myself. He was 18 years old. I had saved enough money to send him to UWI this September.

Was. What a silly, ominous verb that is. My brother was killed in a drive-by. He died in my arms, trying to speak even with two holes in his neck. I held him in my arms until he stopped flopping like a fish, dying in a growing pool of his own blood. He never even made it to the KPH.

For 23 years, I avoided the vortex, the compulsion to 'get involved', I'd never even smoked weed. Then, in my weakest moments, I got sucked in.

Maybe if I had a job, it would have been easier, just something to occupy the hole in my life where my brother Courtney used to be. But society seems to have rejected me, even with 4 CXC's to my credit. I do not belong.

I killed. I murdered three guys who were implicated in Courtney's death. It takes just a few seconds to commit murder, it happens in the mind first before you pull the trigger. The gun. One of the most remarkable inventions of the last

200 years, right up there alongside the light bulb, birth control and the antibiotic penicillin.

I have grown fond of my gun. It's a Glock 9 mm, chrome, you see. I keep getting up in the night to oil it, hoping that the pig-cops come for me. I'm going to die soon. If my enemies don't get me, the police will.

Now, I can't sleep. The blood. The blood, I can see it, it's everywhere. I do not eat pork because while on summer vacation in the country, I had to kill one of my grandmother's hogs for Sunday dinner. I couldn't stop vomiting.....

What's that noise outside? Is it them? I grab my Glock. Come on them, let's finish the game, my mind screams. But it's just one of the mongrels that roam the streets.

I know that I'm next. I'll just be another victim of the killing fields of the ghetto. I will never get out. I have no money, no pride, nothing left.

Courtney, I will be with you soon.

Regards,  
Julian

**You can e-mail me at  
cmillsy@yahoo.com**



**Membership has its  
Privileges**

JANC members in business for themselves in the Bay Area or provider of services such as plumbing, home repairs, car repairs etc. may now advertise on JANC's web page.

Go to the vendors' section at [www.janc.com](http://www.janc.com) to see the information we need to post your business. Then, e-mail the web master with your similar information. We will post your business/service. We want to encourage our Bay Area Caribbean community to patronize Caribbean business owners.



**Linking US Jamaican  
Businesses with Home**  
By Tennyson Williams

On the weekend of August 25<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to participate in a conference sponsored by the National Associations of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO). The conference was held in Los Angeles at the Airport Hilton Hotel. Participants included members from Jamaican organizations from around the US, local elected officials, Jamaican business leaders, and members of the Jamaican government.

The keynote speaker was Honorable Phillip Paulwell, MP Minister of Industry, Commerce and Technology. I was introduced to him by Ms Barbara Gloudon and was able to meet and discuss his Information Technology Strategy for Jamaica and how we here in the Bay Area can contribute.

As a result of this meeting the JANC plans to host an Information Technology (IT) Summit. The objective of this summit will be for the Minister to outline the goals and objective, and for us to identify individuals and businesses that can provide IT training, and business investment.

The most prominent theme at the conference was that both the government and business sectors in Jamaica have now realized the value of Jamaicans living abroad to the economy of Jamaica. They have a strategy to communicate directly to US Jamaican community, and are using groups such as NAJASO to implement this strategy.

So you ask what is NAJASO? NAJASO is a non-profit umbrella association of Jamaican supportive organizations throughout the United States. It was founded July 4, 1977, in Washington D.C. when representatives of Jamaican Groups from across the US met and launched the national body. The Association has grown through the years and is today the largest and most influential Jamaican body abroad.

(Continued page 5)

**(Jamaican Businesses continued)**

If anyone is interested in participating in the Information Technology Summit please contact **Tennyson Williams** at **(510)-801-8083**

**Donations Needed for Scholarship fund**

This year JANC committed to giving \$3000 in scholarships and we did. However, it was anticipated that the raffle ticket sales would generate the \$3000 and not require us to use our operational funds. Regrettably,, the goal of \$3000 in raffle tickets sales were not met. We raised only \$1514. We would like to raise the additional \$1486.

One member, Dr. Gordon gave \$500 and has challenged others to match his donation. Mr. & Mrs. Mark Douglas of Berkeley matched it with \$1000. I challenge the rest of you to match this with a donation of

\$1500. If you do, we will make the goal of \$3000.

The year is quickly ending and it will soon be time to file income taxes. If you are looking for a charity deduction, please consider making a lump sum donation to our scholarship fund. Our tax ID number is 943101952.

Thanking you in advance for your positive response.

Yours in service,  
Denise.

**TO SEE OUR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS, GO TO [WWW.JANC.ORG](http://WWW.JANC.ORG).**



**CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE**



Our Christmas celebration is again upon us and we have a great party planned. See flyer insert.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Bring lots of guests. There will be no advance ticket sales.

Don't forget to bring a toy. One toy per family, any age group. This year, all toys will go to Majestic Garden Settlement in Kingston.



**Elections for Officers  
October 15th**



Elections for the 2001 Jamaica Association of Northern California (JANC) Officers will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the General meeting. Positions being filled on the board include the office of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

After the election and tallying of the ballots the new officers will be sworn in at the next general meeting held on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

JANC members are encouraged to participate in this process.

**Thanks the following people for working the at the Independence Celebration Gala:**

**Winsome Sinclair  
Janet Hopkins  
Olrick Carter  
Dave Jackson**

**All our members who sold tickets**

**The following for their contributions:**

**Grand Prize donors**

**Rick Lozano, Air Jamaica - Roundtrip tickets for two  
Charmain Tyndale, Renaissance Jamaica Grande - hotel accommodations**

**Consolation Prize Donors**

**Tennyson Williams & Carl Tomlinson- Admission to Island Paradise**

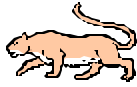
Peter McKenzie - Primemercia -  
Financial Planning Consultation  
Michael & Carole Barnett- (take  
business title off website) - facial  
& gift basket  
Denise McCallaCreary - Partylite  
candles & candle accessories  
JoAnn Alvarez - complimentary  
Labor Day Boatride  
Terry McMillan - personal  
autographed book  
Mr. Seymour Parchment - lunch  
for two at Pepperpot Restaurant

Publicity

Mr. Chauncey Bailey, Soul Beat  
International Television  
Network  
Joan Savoury, News Anchor, Soul  
Beat

**Sundee Lioness, Inc.**

*Layout Design*



P.O. Box 857

Alameda, CA 94501

Pager: (510) 819-6202

E-mail: [dlioness@pacbell.net](mailto:dlioness@pacbell.net)