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## Letter from the JANC President

Dear JANC Members and friends,

For the last two months I have been listening to RJR on a daily basis to include Barbara Gloudon's show "Hotlink". It is a really nice feeling to get up to minute news of what is happening in Jamaica. I have been particularly despondent however when I listen to "Hotlink" and hear caller after caller express their frustration with the economy, unemployment and just mere day-to-day survival. Many of the phone calls are from mothers. Some acknowledging that their kids are starving and sometimes out of frustration they have abused their children. I highlight this to draw your attention to two projects we the Association try to take on each year to help our fellow Jamaicans at home.

First, there is the scholarship fund. To date, we have 54 applications that will be reviewed by our scholarship selection committee for award at the Independence celebration. They will have the difficult job of deciding who gets an award and what amount. Last year, we had hoped to give much more than \$3000. We didn't and couldn't because the raffle tickets that we had hope to sell to raise \$3000 did not all sell. This year, our goal is \$5000.

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**If you are not a  
paid member of JANC,**

**News Flash! News Flash!**

**this will be your  
last hard copy  
newsletter.** Due to the high costs of production & postage, we will only mail newsletters to dues paying members who don't have an e-mail address on file. All others will receive their newsletter electronically.

The newsletter will also be posted to the website at [www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org).

## Independence Day Celebration Gala

All JANC members and friends are invited to join the Honorable Barbara Gloudon for lunch on August 12th at Things is Ethnic in Milpitas. Please R.S.V.P. by August 8th by calling (408) 942-4767.

Tickets are now on sale for Independence celebration 2000. Reserve your tickets today by calling the JANC information line at 510 464-1300 or stop in at the Island Paradise Club 1436 Webster Street in Alameda, at Arts Jamaican Market, 4042 Broadway in Oakland, and at Things

Ethnic Restaurant & Catering, 454 S. Main Street in Milpitas.

A note about the ticket price of \$50 and \$60 respectively for the Independence Celebration

I have been receiving feedback that the ticket price for the Independence Dance is too high. I want you to know that in setting the price, we tried our best to keep it as low as possible. Most of the cost in the price will go to pay for the sit down meal. As many of you know, we have been trying to find a place where we can cater our own food and have not been successful. The rest of the costs will go to pay the deejay, guest speaker expenses with about \$2 per person that will go to the operational fund of the organization. Please support this event. If we do not get the support, chances are we will not put on this type of an event next year.

So, buy your ticket, invite a friend and let's all have a great Independence celebration. Denise

## Membership Survey Results

During the March mailing of the newsletter (approximately 326 copies), we enclosed a membership survey. The purpose of the survey was to solicit feedback to help the Executive Board determine how best the Association can serve the community. One response was received. During our June meeting, we had a member suggest that we convene a

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**(Presidents letter continued)**

A ticket is \$2 with the top prize a round trip for two to Jamaica to include hotel. I do hope each of you will buy at least 10 tickets.

Second, we do a medical fundraiser normally around October. This year I plan to recommend that instead of supporting some medical facility, we talk to Barbara Gloudon and see if we can arrange through her to help some of the needy families.

But more important, I started thinking about the scholarship fund and the 54 applications we have. It occurred to me that if each member on our mailing list gave a substantial donation, we could give an award to at least 50% of the applicants. Please think about it. If you want to help your fellow Jamaicans, here is an opportunity for you to do so. It is simple and easy. Give to our scholarship fund. You know our US dollars go a long way there.

Finally, I remind you about our Independence celebration. Tickets are available. Visit our website at [www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org) or call the information line to find out how you can get your ticket. Have an enjoyable and safe summer.

Denise

**COMING UP!!**

July 30 – August 5  
Reggae Sun fest  
Montego Bay



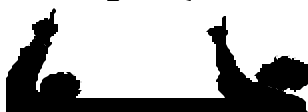
**Saturday, August 12th**  
**Jamaican Cuisine**  
**Luncheon with Keynote**  
**Speaker, Barbara Gloudon**  
**454 South Main Street**  
**Milpitas, CA**  
**R.S.V.P by Thursday, 8/8/00**  
**Seymour (408) 942-4767**

**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.

**Cuyah!**



**Roun' Town...**

July 17<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Reggae Runnin'  
Reno/Tahoe

August 18<sup>th</sup>  
Culture with Vinyl  
Maritime Hall

August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>  
Afriibbean Fest  
San Jose, CA

August 18 – August 20  
Renegade Music Festival  
Quincy, CA



**(Survey continued)**

retreat to determine future growth, direction and objectives of the

Association. After much discussion, it was determined that we probably would not get the numbers to attend a retreat and we should again try distributing the surveys at the picnic. There were approximately 340 people served at the picnic. This number does not include children. 14 people completed a survey. A compilation of those results follows. We will again have the surveys available at the Independence celebration. We ask that if you are interested in seeing the Association continue that you take time out to provide the feedback to the Executive Board.

Survey feedback: A cross section of Jamaicans, non- Jamaicans and spouses filled out the survey. They lived as far north as Vacaville/Sonoma County and as far south as San Jose. There were a mixture of members and non-members. Most seldom attended meetings. The predominant reason seemed to be lack of time.

Most liked the meeting location with one person from San Francisco indicating they did not.

Most preferred a formal Independence Dance with guest speaker, band or deejay and a sit down dinner. The price anyone would pay for such an event ranged from \$30 to \$60. Feedback to the question of change or expectations of JANC was minimal. The few people that responded had different expectations and changes for the organization.

We hope to have more people respond at the Independence Celebration. If you haven't as of yet, completed a survey, please do. We are really interested in your thoughts and opinions. You may fill out the survey online at [www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org) or plan to fill out a hard copy at the Independence Celebration 12 August.

**Secretary's Notepad**

Jamaicans Hail End of Import Ban on a Fruit

KINGSTON, Jamaica (Reuters) - Jamaica's government and island canneries welcomed the lifting of a decades-old U.S. ban on the importatio

ackee, a tropical fruit popular in Caribbean cuisine but poisonous when unripe.

Stanley McLelland, U.S. ambassador to Jamaica, announced on Thursday that restrictions had been lifted, effective immediately, on importation of ackee canned by Ashman's Food Products Ltd. and Canco Ltd., both of Jamaica.

The agreement came after Jamaican scientists persuaded U.S. officials that they could ensure that the canned fruit did not contain hypoglycin, a poisonous amino acid compound that is present in the unripe fruit but diminishes to undetectable levels when the fruit is ripe.

Jamaican ackee sales total \$13 million annually, a figure that McLelland said should double within two years with the opening of the American market and reach \$80 million within the next decade. That would make it Jamaica's largest agricultural export to the United States.

Ira Ashman, managing director of Ashman Food Products, said he was confident that ackee exporters could go beyond West Indian communities in the United States and break into mainstream markets. "Many tourists who come to Jamaica have gotten hooked on ackee, and so we won't have a major problem to get them using ackees. The big challenge will be to get it into the supermarkets by linking up with established U.S. distributors," Ashman said.

## NEWS FROM JAMAICA

Reprinted from JIS

- **Rehabilitation of old Harbour Road**

About 8.5 kilometers of the Old Harbour Road in St Catherine is being targeted for improvement, including the strengthening of pavements, where required. The replacement of portions of the deteriorated road surface, the cleaning and improvement of existing drains, the overlaying of the surface with asphalt

concrete and the reconstruction of the road's soft shoulder.

- **All-Age Schools In Trelawny Get Computer**

Two computers and a printer valued at J\$3000,000 were recently presented to the Falmouth All-Age School in Trelawny by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Jamaica Awareness Association of California.

- **Street People Centre Opens in Mobay**

The Montego Bay City Spirit Care Centre for street people, established by the St. James Parish Council at a cost of J2.5 million is now open.

Built to accommodate about 50 persons, the Centre comprises a waiting room, sanitary conveniences, an administrator's office, a kitchen and dining area.

Beneficiaries are to receive three meals daily, have baths, get clothing and be examined by a doctor or psychiatrist, at the Centre. They are then referred to a hospital for treatment, if necessary.

- **New Cellular Licenses Investors**

The Telecommunications Bill, in its present form, has been considered acceptable by the two cellular investors, who have purchased licenses in excess on J\$8 billion.

In addition, these providers have expressed their intention to spend in excess of US\$200 million in Jamaica, on development of the telecommunication infrastructure this year.

He has a BS/MS in Physics from the University of Pennsylvania, and has been a small business owner and computer consultant.

The following is a summary of his Public Services:

- City of Hayward Citizens Advisory Commission 1985-1991, served as Chair in 1989-90
- City of Hayward Planning Commission for 1991-1994
- Hayward City Council Member 1994-current
- 1997-98 Mayor Pro Tem
- Council Environment Committee
- Council Technology Applications Committee

### Regional

- Council For the Prevention of Drinking and Driving
- Board of Directors for The Kids Breakfast Club
- Hayward Youth Football League Board Member
- Member of the Jamaica Association of Northern California

### National

- National League of Cities Public Safety & Crime Prevention Committee 1995-Present
- Current Vice Chair of the Committee National Public Safety Technology Task Force Member, convened by Congress and Public Technologies Inc.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Delivered keynote speech for the National League of Cities on local government needs for domestic terrorism preparedness.
- Testified before Congressional Judiciary Subcommittees 4 times on behalf of the National League of Cities
- Moderated 2 public safety sessions at Congressional Cities Conferences in Los Angeles and Kansas City.

## JANC Member Profile Councilman Olden Henson

The Jamaica Association of Northern California (JANC) is proud to have as a long time member, Hayward City Council Member Mr. Olden Henson.

Olden was born in Arcadia, Louisiana and has been a resident of Hayward for 21 years. He is married to Pauline, and they have a daughter Deniece.