

# Jamaica Association of Northern California Newsletter



# Cuyah!

Published by the Jamaica Association of Northern California  
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## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Dear JANC Members and Friends,

Time is passing quickly and I cannot believe it is now June. It seems like it was only yesterday we celebrated the start of a new year. Rest assured, your Board is busy at work trying to bring you the best community events this year. Let me be the first to express along with many of you my disappointment that Mr. Oliver Samuels cancelled his appearance with us. However, I am feverishly working with him to find a date to accommodate his schedule. I will keep you posted on my efforts.

We launched our picnic planning with our first meeting May 3rd. Many thanks to the volunteers who stepped up to the plate to help plan this event. Please mark your calendar NOW! It is a **NEW LOCATION!** The picnic while not a fundraiser event, seem to attract the highest attendance of all the events done by the Association each year. We want folks to come out to the new location. I can tell you the place is totally different from San Felipe park and we are making changes to the program we hope you will appreciate. Check the website or our voice mail for details. The picnic is a wonderful opportunity to socialize and meet new people.

The planning for our prime event, our independence celebration is in full swing. Mark your calendar now for August 16th and get ready to sell tickets. We were very fortunate, thanks to Joan Savoury who secured confirmation quite early from the Minister of Tourism, the Honorary Aloun N'dombet-Assamba. (I have to brag right here, she is a Merl Grove alumni). We are not frequently visited by members of the Jamaican government and would like her to remember the Bay Area when she returns to Jamaica. This will only happen if every person in receipt of this newsletter does their part to support this event. If you are traveling, sell tickets anyway. If you must be absent, tell your friends, coworkers, neighbors, etc. We want at least 250 people at this event.

Finally, don't forget our scholarship program. We had an anonymous donor kick off this year's giving with \$1000. I challenge each and every one of you to dig deep within your purse and contribute what you can. *In the meantime, walk good and much respect,*

**Denise J.**



## Minister of Tourism to Speak at Independence Celebration

Honorable Aloun N'Dombet-Assamba, Minister of Industry and Tourism will be the guest speaker for the Association's annual Independence celebration August 16th, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pleasanton.

A trained lawyer and astute businesswoman, Mrs. Aloun N'Dombet-Assamba, is one of three women serving as Ministers in the Cabinet. She will arrive in the Bay Area August 15th and given the royal treatment by members of the Association Board. This is the first time in more than 10 years a minister in government will visit with Jamaicans in the Bay Area. Tickets to the event are \$60 per person and will be on sale at various Caribbean businesses in Oakland, San Jose, Modesto, Sacramento or at JANC website [www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org).

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## Control Your Temper, “Walk Away”

By Newton C. Gordon, DDS, MS Honorary Consul Jamaican Consulate

**The following article details a recent incident involving a Jamaican in the Bay Area. It has been edited and names withheld to protect the accused.**

EM, a 38-year-old Jamaican (sculptor, chef and Rastafarian) male, migrated to the US (San Francisco) on an entry visa on July 19, 2002. He was sponsored by a female Caucasian US citizen (AB), 54 years old and a schoolteacher, who visited Jamaica four times for extended periods. AB and EM were married on October 4, 2002. On December 28, 2002, he was arrested and charged with seven felony counts, including child endangerment and terrorist threat because of domestic violence.

The allegations were that he became violent, verbally threatened his wife, her 32-year-old son (who was living at home), his girlfriend and 18-month-old child, and brandished a kitchen knife. On arrival of the police, he engaged in a non-contentious dialogue on the premise he had done nothing wrong. He was handcuffed and taken to jail (7<sup>th</sup> and Bryant Street, San Francisco). These felony charges, pressed by his wife's **son**, carried a maximum penalty of 15 years.

The consulate was contacted. Bicknell Ramsay was appointed as a casual employee of the consulate and assigned as EM's advocate. There were three court appearances. The judge refused to reduce the \$100,000 bail. However, at the third hearing the presiding judge was sympathetic and understood Jamaica's culture. Olden Henson, Council Member, City of Hayward, Bicknell Ramsay and I were in court. If EM plead to two misdemeanor charges and left the U.S. immediately, the felony charges would be dropped. We were satisfied with this outcome. Two hours later, the consulate was informed that EM refused to plead guilty to the misdemeanor charges. We convinced the judge to accept a no contest plea. EM was released from jail and boarded a flight (one transfer) to Jamaica.

This case is indicative of the many allegations or actual incidences of domestic violence encountered by the Consulate. Currently there are two Jamaican citizens who are being processed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for removal at the end of their jail sentences (one in Alameda County, the other in Contra Costa County). Involvement of the Immigration Service means permanent exclusion from The United States.

Terrorist threat was a compelling felony charge for this case, and will be discussed by Olden Henson in the context of the Patriot Act. Foreign nationals must constantly recognize that alleged or actual domestic violence, verbal or physical, is a rapid route to incarceration and deportation. In arguments, dispute resolution must prevail; it is also appropriate to walk away.

## Exercise Your Rights, “Vote”

By Olden Henson, Hayward City Councilman

Congressional passage of the U.S. Patriot Act as a post September 11, 2001 response occurred under the radar of citizen scrutiny. Since most of us were mourning the tragic loss of over 3000 lives, Congress, acting in anger and without much debate placed many constitutionally inherent rights in jeopardy. For those who are naturalized citizens this is particularly troublesome, since the Patriot Act in some cases could void citizenship. Indeed naturalized or not, citizenship could be removed.

The Patriot Act is a document crafted by the U. S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and some of the more conservative members of the senate and the house. Ostensibly, its stated purpose is to minimize the threat of terrorist acts towards any American. However, the potential loss of constitutionally provided freedom far outweighs any gains of safety. Under the Patriot Act, anyone could raise suspicions and in the most extreme mandates, could be subjected to legal proceedings outside the normal boundaries. The final administration of “justice would be a Military type tribunal, with the President of the United States determining guilt of innocence.

The case of the Jamaican man in San Francisco ( See Dr. Newton Gordon's article) illustrates how under the new legal structure one can be incarcerated indefinitely. The U.S. Constitution forbids this of course. The bottom line is that the charge of making terrorist threats is so broad that a simple verbal spat between friends could lead to one party accusing the other of this. (Continued on page 3)



## The Case For Liberty (Cont'd)

I encourage everyone to study this document to see how the Patriot Act can be truly freedom threatening. The cynical part of the equation is that the act sunsets in 2005. Will all terrorist threats throughout the world subside by then? We are told that we should be in for the long haul in the fight against terrorism. The damage to our freedoms from now until 2005 could be irreparable. Some we will never experience again.

The only way to change the current immigrant unfriendly climate is to go to the polls and **VOTE**. There is a presidential and congressional election November 2004 and a primary in March 2004. Express your joy or displeasure over the Patriot Act and other policies. Voting is still one of the rights we have. If only 30% are exercising the right to vote, you will see Patriot Act 2. *Indeed Benjamin Franklin in 1792 uttered,*

***“those who would sacrifice liberty for short-term safety, deserve neither liberty or safety.”***

\* \* \* \* \*



### *Donations Needed for Shipping Computers to Jamaica*

Would you like to support a charity in Jamaica? JANC needs \$500 dollars to ship donated computers to Jamaica. We have identified the Majesty Gardens Settlement as the first recipients of computers and are teaming up with *Food for the Poor* in Florida to get the computers to Jamaica. Please forward your tax deductible donations to the **JANC, P.O. Box 30156, Oakland, CA. 94604 in care of Shipping Computers. Or donate online at [www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org).** Your donation is tax deductible

### News Tidbits:

- ? **Membership cards....** Recently membership cards were mailed without names. New membership cards will be made and hand delivered to members at the picnic. Members who do not attend the picnic will receive their card in the mail.
- ? **Executive Board meeting...** will be held the last Friday of every month at 1980 Bamboo Court, Hayward, home of the Secretary, Lurdys Gordon.
- ? **Dr. Natelaine E. Fripp.....** Congratulations to Natelaine E. Fripp, daughter of Nate and Elaine Fripp graduated from George Washington University, School of Medicine on May 18th.
- ? **Fly Air Jamaica...** nonstop flights from Los Angeles to Kingston and Montego Bay. See your local travel agent today.

## Come to the next JANC General Meeting

**Sunday June 8, 2003!**

Time: 3 PM

Crowne Plaza Hotel- Pleasanton

11950 Dublin, CA 94588 \* (925) 847-6000

Go to [www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org) or map quest for directions

## JANC Membership Categories

**Active  
Membership  
\$30/year**

**Associate  
Membership  
\$15/year**

**Junior  
Membership  
\$5/year  
per family**

**MAKE  
CHECKS  
PAYABLE  
TO:  
JANC**

**Jamaica  
Association  
of Northern  
California**

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# 2003 Calendar of Events

See [www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org) for updates and changes.



### *Domino Tournament Island Paradise Club*

Members enjoyed an evening of dominoes on June 1st at the Island Paradise Club. The King of Dominos received a \$50 cash prize. Runner up received \$25. A fun time was enjoyed by all in attendance.

### **New 2003 Member Discount Program**

Membership has its privileges. Visit our website ( [www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org)) and see some local area businesses offering JANC member discount. You must show a valid 2003 JANC membership card in order to get the benefits.

#### \*\*\* *Participating Businesses*\*\*\*

- ‡ Island Market Grocery, 1440 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose 95116 (408) 287-0557
- ‡ Lewis of Laventille Sound Development, (650) 703-6588
- ‡ Jamaica Station Restaurant, 4929 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, 94609 (510) 579-1539
- ‡ Ma's Caribbean Food Catering, 1711 Telegraph Road, Oakland, 94612
- ‡ HA Production Sound Equipment and Event Promotion
- ‡ Primerica Financial Services, 580 Grand Ave, Oakland, 94610
- ‡ Island Paradise Club, 1436 Webster Street, Oakland, 94611 (510) 865-3225
- ‡ Partylite candles and candle accessories, (408) 238-8083
- ‡ Jamaica Place-Jerk Chicken Express, Emerybay Public Market Place  
5959 Shellmound St. #26 Emeryville, 94608
- ‡ Caribbean Vibes Restaurant, 898 Alamo Drive, Vacaville, 95688
- ‡ Mama's Jamaican Restaurant, Century Plaza, 2401 Orangeburg Ave  
Modesto, 95355

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