

# Cuyah!



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The Newsletter of the Jamaica Association of Northern California—[www.janc.org](http://www.janc.org)

## »NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Dear Members and Friends of the Jamaican Community,**

2004 has come and (is almost) gone, can you believe it! Time flies when you're having fun. It has truly been an amazing year for JANC. We broke new ground, maintained our traditions and stayed true to our overall objective of increasing the value and impact of JANC in Northern California and beyond through Jamaican community building and social contribution to Jamaica.

This issue is primarily focused on our Annual Report/2004 in Review, which details our key accomplishments from the plan we presented earlier this year. But before we get into the annual report, I must first and foremost, thank all the people who helped make all the things JANC accomplished in 2004 possible. The past and continued success of JANC is at its core a community effort, I applaud the dozens of people who gave their time and energy to JANC this year. Thanks to the Board for their outstanding dedication and commitment: Shieka Blount - Vice President, Pamela Samuels - Treasurer, Tahalia Barrett - Secretary and Denise McCallaCreary - Immediate Past President. Thanks to the Advisory Board for being a resource to the Board throughout the year: Bicknell Ramsay, Lurdys Gordon and Shorrone Levy. Thanks to the Committee Chairs for coordinating our committee projects: Copeland Bryan, Deidre Nolan, Denise Thomas, Lorna Foster, Mahad Mahan, Ogarry Clarke, Peter McKenzie, Steve Jones and Tennyson Williams. And special thanks to all the volunteers that helped in a hundred different ways throughout the year: Annetta Simpson, Ayofemi Oseye, Brixton Hitman, Carl Wilkinson, Christopher McCallaCreary, Corbett (Club Dread), Donna Goodson, Faye Johnson, George Brown, Gus Brown, Indigo Goodson, Jackie Bynoe, Janet Hopkin, Janice Watson, John Bent, Joyce Samuels, Julian Harker, Karlene McCallaCreary, Loretta Green, Malaika Paquoit, Munair Simpson, Olric Carter, Oneil Dennis, Rose March, Sarah Price, Sharon Longmore, Sonja Brooks, Tony Moses, Trevor Creary, Trina Washington, Trisha Dawson, Tyrone Heath, Tyrone Grandison, and Vernon Foster.

I sincerely enjoyed being President in 2004, working diligently with the rest of the Board to continue the legacy of this three decade old organization. - Walk Good

*Kimone Gooden - President*

### **Congratulations to our 2004 Scholarship Awardees & Scholarship Drive Prize Winners !!**

Each year JANC awards scholarships based on financial need to Jamaican students. This year \$4000 was awarded to six students: Wendy Allen, Stacey Barret and Suzette Roy from the University of Technology in Jamaica; Miguel Stewart from Hunters College in New York; Tennesha Wood from the University of Minnesota and Martin Garwood from UWI, Mona Campus in Jamaica.

The Scholarship Drive is the main source of income for the JANC Scholarship Fund. Special thanks to all the people who contributed to our Scholarship Fund by participating in the Drive. **And special thanks to our sponsors: Air Jamaica, Rondel Village in Negril, the Jamaica Pegasus, and Courtleigh Hotel & Suites for providing the prizes for our winners.** The winners of the Scholarship Drive were: First prize - Bruch Rosepapas - sold by Lurdys Gordon (round trip airfare and hotel stay for 2;) Second prize - Phyllis Brown - sold by Debra Byfield (hotel stay for 2;) And two consolation prize winners - Clyde Flewellen - sold by Tennyson Williams and Charles Williams - sold by Denise McCallaCreary (both received gift certificates.) The Prize for the person who sold the most raffle tickets went to Lurdys Gordon (hotel stay for 2.)

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### **Membership/Outreach (Jamaican Community Building)**

1. We launched a "Calling All Jamaicans" campaign.
2. A new Outreach team was created to "hunt down Jamaicans." Team members were located in San Francisco, Oakland, Vacaville, Concord and San Jose. We created "Calling All Jamaicans" JANC Information Cards that were placed in holders at local Jamaican and Caribbean establishments. The Outreach team also carried them around. The perforated card provides information about JANC and a postage paid addressed post card for users to send their contact information.
3. We transformed the roster into a Northern California Jamaicans Database with two new classifications for members: 1) Jamaican (Born in Jamaica or Jamaican Descendant - Parents or Grand Parents were born in Jamaica) and 2) Friends of Jamaica.
4. We doubled the JANC Roster to 800 people.
5. Our mailing list increased 300%.
6. Paid membership increased 60% (18% of the Roster made a dues contribution.)

### **Events (Jamaican Community Building)**

7. We created a monthly mechanism to bring the community together by having an event or a meeting or a co-sponsorship once a month. The interest and momentum created by the events was staggering, every JANC event this year attracted 250+ people.
8. We reframed the General Meeting into a Jamaican Meet n Greet – General Meeting & Social Hour. The new social & business format worked well, we saw a 150% increase in attendance at General Meetings.
9. We rotated our meetings and events to attract Jamaicans from different areas.
10. We brought Oliver Samuels to the Bay Area for the first time ever. Oliver and Company starred in Christopher Cum Buck Us, a musical comedy. We dubbed the event an Evening of Comedy, Jamaican Style.
11. We maintained JANC's two key events, the Picnic and our Independence Celebration.
12. We started new events that will hopefully become new traditions based on their success: A Classic Jamaican Easter Brunch, an Independence Boat Ride featuring the legendary Merritone aka Winston Blake and Calling All Jamaicans & Reggae Lovers for an Evening of Nuff Niceness.
13. We brought Third World to the Bay area for our first Benefit Concert, aiding the victims of Hurricane Ivan.
14. We co-sponsored events with other local organizations: A screening of Ky-mani Marley's film One Love with the San Francisco Black Film Festival; The Caribbean Family Picnic in Vacaville with Nite Owl productions; The Caribbean Cricket Club's annual dinner, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Children's Christmas Show /Teen Caribbean Pageant with Sisters wit Style and we participated in San Francisco Carnival with Mas Makers International.
15. We created the Northern California Caribbean Events List – a regular comprehensive events list of other non JANC Caribbean events that was sent via email.

### **Committees (Social Impact on Jamaica)**

16. We formed a new Health Issues committee. The committee collected hospital equipment and medicine for the Cornwall Regional hospital in Montego Bay and the Princess Margaret hospital in St. Thomas.
17. We added a new Education arm to the Scholarship Committee that was focused on educational initiatives. The committee collected books and school supplies for the Children's First organization in St. Catherine.
18. We formed a new Fundraising committee that collected over \$6,500 in cash and kind donations.
19. We awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to six Jamaican students.
20. All four committees (Health, IT Advisory, Scholarship/Education and Fundraising) collected donations (hospital equipment, books, medicine, and computers) worth a total value of over \$200,000.00 US dollars. The donations have been consigned to Food for the Poor for transport to Jamaica.

### **Administration**

21. We re-phrased the mission statement to more accurately represent the purpose of the organization.
22. We developed a new JANC logo that incorporates the history of the 20+ year organization but also adds something that is new and uniquely JANC.
23. We created new marketing materials that are clean and consistent: We reformatted the Newsletter into a new 8 page format with a Caribbean Business Directory. We created Info Cards, Membership Cards, Labels, Stationary, Post Cards and a JANC emblem that Board members wore at JANC events and other programs where we acted as JANC representatives.
24. We redesigned the website and added key new features: a "Join" page that feeds directly into the new Northern California Jamaicans database; An "About Us" section that includes information about the structure of the organization and an online directory which mirrors the Newsletter directory.
25. We acquired a JANC computer for our files and we now have office space.

December 1st was observed as World AIDS Day. 45 million people worldwide have contracted the disease. In Jamaica alone 22,000 people are living with the disease; and 11 people die of AIDS weekly. It is the second leading cause of death for men and women in their mid-thirties. (Statistics from the Ministry of Health) This issue's News from Home is focused on raising our awareness of the epidemic — Health Committee

#### **New AIDS cases on the increase**

There was a 12 per cent increase in reported new AIDS cases in the first six months of 2004, compared to the same period in 2003, according to the Ministry of Health.

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20041125/lead/lead7.html> ( Source: Jamaica Gleaner | 11/25/04)

#### **HIV/AIDS and the West**

The Island's western region is unfortunately the section with the highest number of HIV/AIDS cases. The latest figures showed St. James as the parish with the most cases of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Hanover, is third behind St. Andrew followed by St. Ann, Trelawny and Westmoreland. There seems to be a direct link between the number of AIDS cases and the tourism industry. Yet, no study to date has conclusively established this link...

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20041209/western/western5.html> ( Source: Jamaica Gleaner | 12/9/04)

#### **Combating Aids Stigma And Discrimination**

Chief of Epidemiology and AIDS in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Peter Figueroa has said that combating the strong stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS remained one of the major challenges in overcoming the spread of the disease. <http://www.moh.gov.jm/combatingAIDSSigma.htm> (Source: Ministry of Health)

#### **Young scholars bat for AIDS prevention**

More than 400 youngsters from schools and groups across the island took action against HIV/AIDS. The occasion was a National Forum on Youth and HIV/AIDS, held at the Jamaica Conference Centre, in Kingston. The forum, is aimed at celebrating the work that young people across Jamaica have been doing in the fight against the dreaded disease.

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20041127/lead/lead2.html> (Source: Jamaica Gleaner | 11/27/04)

## »RESOURCES CORNER

### **MoAD Calls for Photos**

MoAD (The Museum of the African Diaspora) invites the community to participate in "Photos From Home." Your donated image could be part of a mosaic mural three stories high that will be unveiled at their Gala opening in Fall 2005. For more information and guidelines for submission visit [www.moadsf.org](http://www.moadsf.org) or call 415.358.7200.

### **Caribbean authors will help Unicef**

**re-build schools** damaged by the hurricanes that battered Grenada, Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, The Dominican Republic, Panama, the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas by donating \$1 from each of three books sold through Burke's secure on-line store at [www.burkesbookstore.com](http://www.burkesbookstore.com) to UNICEF. The books are: A Sea of Wisdom-Island Proverbs, by Ingrid Walter and Sabina Theobalds; Reggae Silver, by Horane Smith; and It could never happen to me, by Michelle Richards. For more information contact Ingrid Walter at [walterandcompany@rogers.com](mailto:walterandcompany@rogers.com) or Ginelle Skerritt at [gskerritt@unicef.ca](mailto:gskerritt@unicef.ca).

### ***We regret to announce the passing of...***

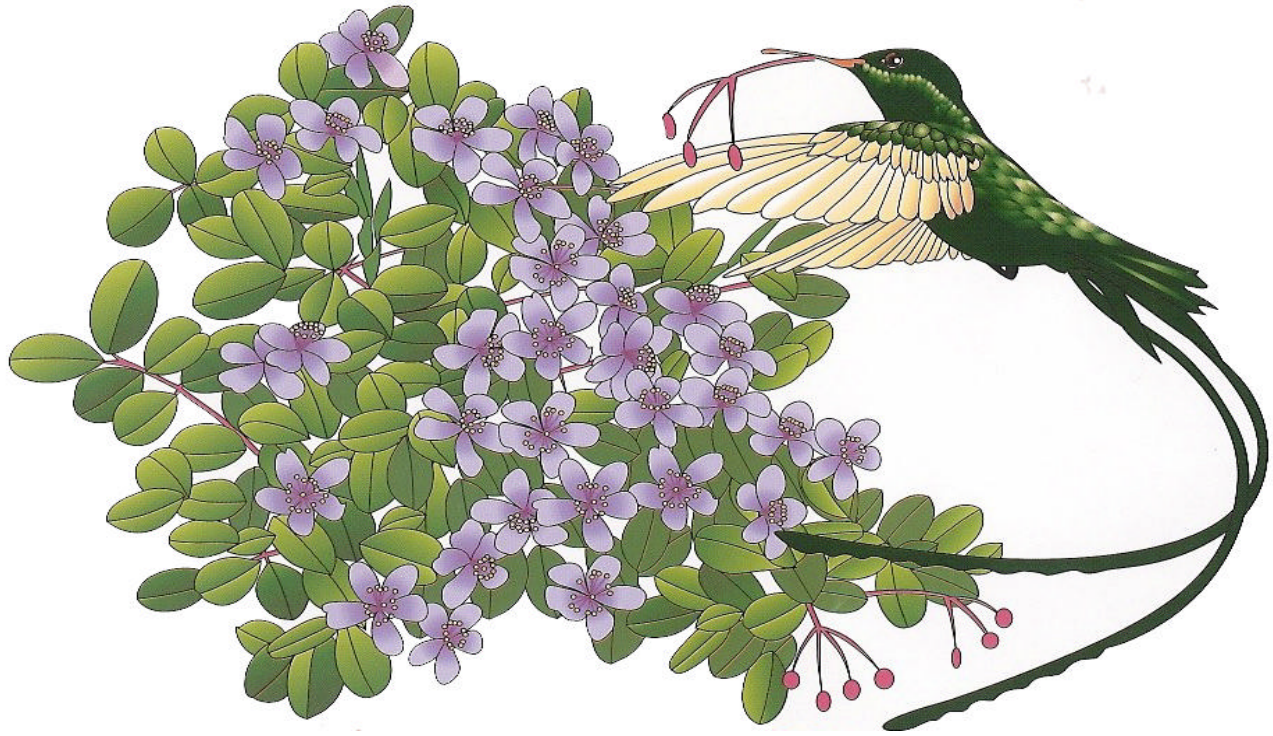
***Carl Fitzgerald McCalla***, brother of *Denise McCallaCreary*. *Carl died suddenly at the age of 40 in Washington, DC. He is survived by his two children: Chelsi & Zachary McCalla.*

***Dwyte Clark***, husband of *Joan Savory*. *Dwyte died suddenly in Kingston. He leaves behind two daughters.*

***Norma Ramsay***, sister of *Bicknel Ramsay*. *Norma died of heart failure. She was a nurse in Montreal, Canada and leaves behind siblings Sameta, Bicknell and Joe-Brenda.*

***Janice Brown***, daughter of *Gus Brown*. *Janice died of Lukemia, at the age of thirty, in New Jersey.*

# Season's Greetings from JANNC



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