CLARENDON JAMAICA TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION

Rushed into office

Clarendon 50th Anniversary Dinner

President of Clarendon Teachers Association, Voilet Thomas Thompson was hurried into the presidential office after being elected to serve as President Elect for this conference year. This became necessary when Norman Allen was finally named as national President Elect for this conference year. Mr. Allen served the parish last year in the capacity of President Elect. Mrs. Thompson has been a member of the Clarendon Parish Association for many years. In accepting the position, Mrs. Thompson says she had prepared herself for the office this year in light of the circumstances surrounding the President Elect election and the dispute afterwards.

PRESIDENT ELECT FOR CLARENDON... AT LAST

By Lawrence Dyer, PRO Clarendon JTA

The most recent national presidential elections created history for the Clarendon Teachers Association. The South Central Region of which the Clarendon Teachers Association is a part, has been successful in producing some great stalwarts who served as national president of the Jamaica Teachers’ Association. Some of these include: Dundee Hewitt, Juno Gayle, the late Hugh Dawes, Paul Adams and Sadie Comrie, Byran Farquharson, Michael Stewart; these were teaching in Manchester and St. Elizabeth when they became president elect. In the recent president elect election, Norman Allen contested the election while teaching in the parish of Clarendon. The election itself was the first of its kind as a declaration of the president elect was not made at the annual conference as was the norm. After many charges, counter charges and court battles, Mr. Norman Allen was eventually declared national president elect, landing Clarendon with its first national president elect. Mr. Allen who currently serves as principal of Four Paths School is now on record as having a former principal who campaigned for presidency while serving as principal and eventually became president, in the person of Clayton Hall. They are also on record as having a second principal who campaigned while at the school and is the national president elect. In the 1970s I recall Godfrey Fairweather, former principal of Milk River Primary in Clarendon, coming to St. Elizabeth, where I was teaching at the time, campaigning for national president elect. Obviously he was not successful and never made another attempt. While serving as principal of Lennon High School in Clarendon and as a member of several committees in JTA Hazel Duncan was asked many times by the parish executive to contest the presidential election. She turned down the requests each time. At the time the Parish Association believed that this well-organized, well-spoken hard working woman had what it took to be a good president. Some years ago, I interviewed her, in my capacity as public relations officer. She was featured on Teachers Time as my project from the parish. In the interview, Miss Duncan said while she had served the JTA in several positions she never thought of being a national president.

CLARENDON BATTLES

In recent years the quest among Clarendon leaders to represent the teachers nationally has grown tremendously, so much so that we have had occasions when two persons from the parish vied for the position, the same year. First we had David Brown, then principal of Garvey Maceo High and Celia Francis, then principal of Killsythe Primary going against each other. The act was repeated again when Clayton Hall and Dr Mark Nicely contested each other. Neither of these men was successful while in the parish. However, they were eventually successful while in other parishes. Clarendon can claim credit for the grooming of Dr Mark Nicely who developed interest in leadership in the Jamaica Teachers Association while he was principal of Hayes Primary and Junior High. He then served as Vere D A president, the following year president elect for Clarendon and then parish president. During this time his quest for national president position was made clear. The parish is cognizant of its young leaders who are preparing themselves to build on the legacy that Mr Norman Allen has started and is committed to their development as we unite and serve.
In keeping with the JTA’s 50th Anniversary Celebrations, the parish staged its Awards Presentation Ceremony on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at the Old Harbour Road Church of God of Prophecy, in Spanish Town. After a rigorous process of selection, 38 teachers (all serving over 15 years in the profession) were awarded for their contribution to school, community, District Association, Parish Association and at the national level. The event, chaired by Cyril Lebert, was attended by Doran Dixon, Basil Benjie, Ena Barclay and Judith Spencer Jarrett, from head office.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION
The parish continues to be well represented at all national events so far this Conference Year. Notable among these is the 50th Anniversary Award Ceremony, held at the Jamaica Pegasus. Here, a number of current and past executive members were awarded for their contribution to the association at all levels. These include, Geraldine Palmer Allen, Huit Johnson,Leadon Spence and Ann Geddes Nelson. Pictures from this event may be viewed on our facebook page @jta St. Catherine Parish.

PARISH BACK TO SCHOOL CHURCH SERVICE
Inspired by an initiative by Immediate Past President, Dr. Mark Nicely, to engage in a series of church services, the parish of St. Catherine, led by its president Shernette Nelson, decided to carry on the practice this year. This year’s edition of the event took place on Sunday, January 18 at the Linstead Baptist Church. This was very well attended by members of the executive as well as the wider membership of teachers across the parish. The president was asked to read the first lesson and special prayers were done for the teachers.
The St. Ann Retired Teachers network is vibrant and active. The group has two chapters: Moneague and the North Coast - consisting of Brown's Town and Saint Ann's Bay. The group is headed by President Wendel Clarke, past Principal of Aboukir Primary. While Moneague Chapter meets every fourth Monday, the North Coast Chapter meets every second Thursday.

The groups visit retired teachers who are now non-ambulatory. They also organise group tours and fun days. The Parish functions as the site for the annual Retired Teachers’ Convocation, observed in June. The site of the last convocation was Ocho Rios High School.

Congratulations to Saint Ann for the installation of one of its own as the current National President of the Past Teacher’s Association, Richard James. Mr. James was a former Principal of Ocho Rios Primary.

Two St Ann teachers have become authors

Two St Ann teachers have become authors. Deloris Trowers-Huntley She authored: “A Journey from Tragedy to Triumph” that shares her powerful life experiences . Mrs. Trowers-Huntley explains that she was led by the Holy Spirit to pen her story. Born to a mother who was just 14 years old, Deloris’ life was filled with challenges. Her book details how she was able to overcome her early life struggles to become a pastor and a teacher. Mrs. Trowers-Huntley can be reached via email: delrosap@yahoo.com. She has already begun her second book

Daidra Senior’s book is a fictional story “ Camouflage ” Ms Senior is a teacher at the Ocho Rios Primary School. Daidra explains that the idea for her book came to her while she was in high school. After multiple re-writes, stops and starts, the book finally became a reality in 2011. The book is available in leading bookstores in the Ocho Rios area or from Ms. Senior. Feel free to email the author: pengnad@yahoo.com.

Science Fair - Claremont DA

One of the highlights of Claremont DA has been their Science Fair. This initiative was orchestrated as a means to prepare the students for the upcoming GSAT Exams. Fern Court High School facilitated the competition which was quite fierce. In the end, Prickley Pole Primary edged out Fort George Primary and Infant to take first place. While rounding out the top three was Alderton Primary and Infant. Congratulations to all who participated!

Moneague DA

Moneague District Association received the trophy for being the most outstanding DA during the 2013-2014 Conference Year. Based on then president, Andrea Bryan-Hughes’ report, the DA had been very busy serving the community of Moneague and its environs. Here are some events they spearheaded or in which they participated:

Parents’ Month Awards Ceremony, Christmas Treat, Members’ Basket Party, Black History Month Movie Night, DA Sports, Parish Sports (where we proudly paraded in our canary yellow DA Polo shirts), Clapham Community Basic School Easter Treat, Read Across Jamaica Day and Labour Day Project at Walkerswood All-Age School.

ST ANN JAMAICA TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION

WELL DONE: Herman Grant and Lenworth Stewart were recipients of the 50th Anniversary Award. Both men have worked tirelessly in the parish for the JTA. Mr. Grant has served as an exemplary Past President and Mr. Stewart as an excellent Contact Teacher and for three terms as Parish President. Well done, Sirs!

In photo above Herman Grant (right) receives award from JTA President Doran Dixon and below Lenworth Stewart accepts his award.
I am truly honored to be the person at the helm of the St. Andrew Teachers' Association at this time. The color of our parish is green, and what better color? Green symbolizes prosperity and the lush green hills of the parish. St. Andrew boasts eight blooming District Associations with one hundred and twenty six schools and a membership of three thousand, one hundred and sixty-seven teachers as at January 31, 2015, the second largest in the Jamaica Teachers' Association. This executive is committed to working hard to get full membership. Over the years we have had some very dedicated teachers who set the foundation and have worked assiduously within the parish and this has lead to the success we have been experiencing. The parish participates in all the activities of the JTA and has been the leading parish in a number of areas. We are renowned for our prowess in the Teachers' Sports, having won the Netball Competition for the last four consecutive years. In the 2014-2015 competitions, we placed second in the football, advanced to the second round of the cricket and reached the semi-finals in the volleyball competition. Not to mention National Sports— which parish has won seventeen out of the thirty championships? St. Andrew of course. The Parish knows how to be caring as we have also been involved with two charitable organizations—Walkers Place of Safety and, more recently, Glenhope Nursery where we pledge to continue giving our support for a number of years to come. St. Andrew has seen a number of its executive members holding chairmanship positions on the National body, as well as being president of the Association, including the first President—Wesley Powell and now the Fiftieth President—Doran Dixon. Stalwarts we salute you!

As the Jamaica Teachers' Association celebrates fifty years of dedication and commitment to the education system in Jamaica, we recognize that the struggle for better working conditions and wages continues. However, the teachers of St. Andrew are not daunted by this and we continue to remain resolute to the profession, our students and the education system at large. As we look forward to the next fifty years, we are cognizant of the fact that not many of us will be around for that celebration. Nevertheless, this executive is committed growing the parish and continue to make the positive impact it has had so far on our members. We salute our forefathers, the visionaries of the JTA. As we continue to build on that legacy, we say “Long live the JTA”, as we continue to “Unite and Serve.”

Debbie Meek
Parish President 2014-2015
The last time teachers got a real wage increase Doran Dixon was president. That contract was signed October 2008. And, in all likelihood, he’s the one who will sign the next wage agreement between the government and the JTA.

He calls it, the “luck of the draw.” Dixon realizes that the negotiations are significant for a new wage and benefits package for teachers after five years of wage freeze.

“In a negotiation year, it is that which defines the presidency,” he said. But, according to Mr. Dixon, more significant than what the negotiations and the final package mean for the presidency or the JTA that is the need for teachers to get the best deal possible.

How does he know what teachers want? Doran Dixon prides himself on being in touch with the teachers and having a welcoming, open door, open-phone-line policy and practice. “The JTA is almost the classic rainbow coalition of people with all interests and perspectives," he said. So there are many views about what the teachers should get and the posture that should be approached in the negotiations.

Mr. Dixon says he is in touch with the various positions, and the association’s experience in these matters guides them, in sitting at the negotiation table.

He lists all the institutions of the JTA that give him a chance to gauge the feeling of the members: General Council, Central Executive, parish associations, DAs, the various committees, all of which meetings he attends.

Then there are the other events, like special functions, sporting events, funerals and celebratory events such as weddings and even visits to shut ins where he says people often engage him on the JTA’s business. “Some teachers will just walk up and tell you what they think…and I listen, they know they can talk to me.” He says, “as many teachers as want it have my phone number and I take all the calls I can and return as many as possible as I miss.”

The year has been historic in other ways too, aside from his coming back to the negotiation table two times in a row.

Mr. Dixon points to the fact that he is the first president to work through three general secretaries within months; first Adolph Cameron, then Patrick Smith and now Byron Farquharson - all within a six month period. He’s also had the unique arrangement at the start of the presidency of not having the usual triumvirate – IPP, President and President Elect. Because the holder of the President Elect office was disputed.

Yet, the 2014-15 Presidential Year for Doran Dixon has been one with well managed change even refreshing of the organization’s management – new Secretary General, Byron Farquharson; new Regional Officer for western Jamaica, Clayton Hall; new Chief Accountant, Wayne Clarke and, on the political side, the swearing in of the new President Elect Norman Allen, after court delays.

During the same time, the organization has had to stay atop issues of potentially great significance to the members – Pension Reform, the proposals about the Jamaica Teaching Council, ENCEL and of course preparing for the wage negotiations.

Asked about the biggest thing that has been reinforced by this year in the presidency, Mr Dixon said: “To be very straightforward with the members and practice full disclosure as far as humanly possible.”

He said he had operated this way with regard to the fraud case in the organization and also over the disputed President-Elect race. Though these were internal matters they were public matters and members wanted the truth and to know justice was being done. “I’ve learnt that being truthful in what you say and doing what you say you are going to do means a significant part of the job is done.”

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Byron Farquharson’s over 30 years in leadership in education, has been marked by several qualities often associated with successful leaders. And, it is those same qualities that he brings to his new role as Secretary General of the Jamaica Teachers’ Association (JTA). They include, among others, inclusiveness, confidence, commitment, creativity, ability to inspire the team, positive work attitude, dedicated and hard worker, and ability to transform.

Mr. Farquharson is aware of the enormous responsibility that comes with one of the most demanding positions within the association that has a membership of over 22,000 island wide. Since taking office on February 1, 2015, he has been told repeatedly of the big shoes he has to fill, considering the achievements of his predecessors, including Dr. Adolph Cameron.

“I have a lot of respect for Dr. Cameron, his professionalism and his passion for excellence, I want all of that from him,” Mr. Farquharson said, during an interview with The Clarion as he spoke of his new role.

Mr. Farquharson is confident that his over 30 years of involvement with the JTA, in different capacities, and at various levels, have prepared him well for the tasks ahead.

He started with the JTA back in 1969 when he landed his first job in the classroom as a pre-trained teacher at his alma mater, Fairfield All Age (now primary) in Manchester, the parish of his birth.

He explained that his association with the JTA started as a volunteer at Fairfield before he held his first position as public relations officer with West Manchester District Association before holding other positions including that of president, at the district association and parish levels, in Manchester and St. Elizabeth.

He has also served at the national level on various committees and was President Elect, national President and Immediate Past President between 1997 and 2000.

Through the JTA, he has served in the region on the Caribbean Union of Teachers, first as a Vice President and for two terms as President. “It’s a long and interesting journey, from not even being sure what JTA stood for, just knowing that you were led to feel that if you were a teacher, you must join JTA, that’s what was on the ground, so JTA had much respect in the public space when I was growing up,” he said.

“Then you started to attend the meetings, more so encouraged, supported by the stalwarts in the profession and in the earlier years a lot of the principals were active in JTA so you were rubbing shoulder, as it were, with the best.”

Mr. Farquharson said he has also had a very interesting journey in the classroom, beginning at his own primary school at Fairfield, shortly after he graduated from Knockalva Agriculture School in Ramble, Hanover where he gained his secondary level education.

He doesn’t recall having any real interest in teaching prior to being offered a pre-trained teaching job Fairfield, by then headmaster Rupert Thomas.

Mr. Farquharson believes he is one of those educators chosen to become a teacher as he never left the classroom since he first set foot inside in 1969, except for when he attended Church Teachers College.

He has taught at Alston Secondary in Clarendon where he did his internship; Belair Prep and Bellfield Secondary, both in Manchester. In 1977, after being a classroom teacher for only four years, he took up the position of principal at Patrick Town All Age, also in Manchester where he spent five years before moving on to lead Pepper All Age in St. Elizabeth, there he spent nine years, before heading back to Manchester to head Mandeville Primary and Junior High, in January 1992 until he retired in 2013.

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EVELYN TUGWELL
For 20 years the voice of the teachers in the West

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he is God-fearing, strong, tolerant, family oriented and a dedicated worker. She has a special interest in education, particularly for those who are tasked with the mammoth job, of educating and caring for the nation’s children.

Evelyn Francis Tugwell has been an exceptional educator. It’s a journey which started many years ago after she was introduced to teaching at Mount Zion All Age in St. James, only a few months after she graduated from Montego Bay High School for Girls.

She spent only one day in the classroom before she ‘ran off’ to work at the St. James Parish Council, a decision she never regretted, since it allowed her to save enough money to get into Church Teachers’ College in Mandeville, Manchester and to continue financing her studies through holiday jobs with the Parish Council.

Mrs. Tugwell started her love affair with teaching officially in 1970 after she graduated from college and was placed for Internship at the Green Island Parish Council in Anchovy, and later moved up to being a Vice Principal. It was during those years in the classroom that she became very involved in the Jamaica Teachers’ Association (JTA).

Mrs. Tugwell believes she has served the JTA with distinction working at the school, district association, parish and national levels. Her involvement over the years includes being a member of several JTA committees at various levels including being president for the St James chapter in 1988.

“I have worked as a volunteer, member of Council and member of Central Executive. I have worked as chairman of credential committee, I have worked with the professional advancement committee, I have worked also as member of the women’s caucus, convenor and trainer for the study circle,” Mrs. Tugwell shared as she outlined her journey with the JTA which also includes representing the association as the John Thompson Fellow in 1990.

Probably the biggest and most valued position with the JTA came in 1995 when she was selected to become the Regional Officer, West of JTA, an area that covers the parishes of Trevelyan, St. James, Hanover and Westmoreland.

It is through her role as Regional Officer that Mrs. Tugwell believes she was able to make the greatest impact and reach more members. As head of the Regional Office, which recently moved its offices to Fairview Shopping complex in Montego Bay, from Barnett Street, Mrs. Tugwell was responsible for overseeing all matters related to teachers.

Mrs. Tugwell explained that among the issues she was tasked to address were matters relating to the well-being of teachers including salaries, pension, seminars, leave, dismissal or suspension, among a range of others.

For Mrs. Tugwell, the Regional Office is a crucial part of the JTA, as it also prevents teachers from having to travel to the head office in Kingston to deal with different issues.

Mrs. Tugwell particularly as it relates to those who are tasked with the mammoth job, of educating and caring for the nation’s children.

IMPORTANT OFFICE

“It (regional office) is very important. I remember as a teacher whenever I had anything to do with my salary or so, I had to go to Kingston. I know that having a region where the teachers can come into or call is very important.”

She has credited Secretary Vinneth Lindsay as an excellent secretary and a people person, who she said, has been a very important asset of the region.

Mrs. Tugwell, is currently on leave, and will retire from the post at the end of August 2015, in her 20th year as regional office.

“The journey has been a very rewarding one, I love the JTA, the JTA has invested in me and I really feel that I have benefitted from working with them both as volunteer and as a member of staff,” Mrs. Tugwell who is a recipient of the prestigious Golden Torch Award (2006).

“God has been good, the teachers have been very encouraging and I feel that I have been able to do my best for them,” Mrs. Tugwell said.

There were some challenging times though for Mrs. Tugwell particularly as it relates to constituting few of her 21 District Associations and keeping them running.

Born and raised in the small fishing village of Lilliput, St. James, Mrs. Tugwell said she grew up in fairly comfortable conditions and from very early in her life she had her sight set on becoming a teacher.

She grew up with her mother, Ada Palmer in a family of five (but there were 9 siblings – 10 Francis children in all) and recalled going barefooted to school, 5 miles away until she was ‘old enough’ to wear shoes. Her mother believed in education.

Her father, Hubert Francis lived in the same community and was always an integral part of her life and supported her though he did not live in the same household.

GROWING UP

“I went to primary school at Mount Zion, it was five and a half miles journey, five days a week for school and one day for church, so I say I have walked 66 miles per week so if I drive now nobody should say anything,” Mrs. Tugwell said with a laugh.

Mrs. Tugwell explained that although she encountered some hardships growing up, like her other siblings, they learnt from very early to utilize what they had. Her mother reared animals and there was always a goat that could be sold in case of any eventuality. Mrs. Tugwell said church, Mount Zion United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Island where she became an Elder formed an important part of her life. Moving to Anchovy, she was baptized and received into the fellowship of the Mt. Carey Baptist Church where she is now a Deacon and serves the Church in other capacities.

She has had some great influence including Orrett Holness, Lloyd and Jacqueline McNamee, H F Smith, Dr. Dorothy Raymond, Olga Nicholson, Basil Benjie, Dr. Aolph Cameron and Mr. Sydney Ramsay (of blessed memory).

“It has been a pleasure working with the Association. They say when you enjoy what you are doing it doesn’t seem to be work.” Mrs. Tugwell said her family, especially her husband Leonard and her children (Yolanda and Dexter) have been very supportive.

EVELYN TUGWELL, retired Regional Officer
‘JTA must know what teachers want’

Patrick R. Smith

On April 4, 2015, we culminate one year of celebrations marking 50 years of existence of the Jamaica Teachers’ Association. Fifty years of teachers at all levels united in a single cause, but more than 130 years of teacher trade unionism started by associations like Kingston Teachers’ Association, (there were eight such parish-based entities which began in the late 1870’s). By 1894, the Manchester Teachers’ Association took the initiative and after a conference in January in Spanish Town, the Jamaica Union of Teachers (JUT) was born. This mainly elementary (primary) school teachers’ union was the vanguard in the united struggle against several anti-teacher policies by the colonial government. The JUT’s advocacy for teachers included: teacher pension, housing, in-service training, more scholarships, reduction of class size and shorter hours of work. The JUT was never limited in its advocacy. Social interventions and political representation highlighted their efforts. Teachers were active in social transformation and teaching literacy classes. Teachers were active in the Jamaica Welfare (founded by Premier N. W. Manley in 1937). They were equally militant in the Jamaica Federation of Women and were involved in the campaign to have women living in concubinage being married. Teacher Mary Morris Knibb, a JUT executive member, was at the forefront with Lady Molly Higgins in this regard. The Jamaica Festival would not have the vitality it had without the JUT and its members. When the 1938 strikes and riots broke, the women in the JUT were also on the frontline. Ms. Aimee Bailey was serving food to the striking dock workers, along with Gladys Longbridge (later Lady Bustamante). They were also active in the national movement. Political involvement was natural for teacher leaders at the JUT conferences which provided the perfect forum to address socio-economic and political matters. It was not surprising, therefore, that in 1944, 14 teachers ran as independents and as representatives for the PNP (3) and the JLP (4). One independent, Harold Allan from Portland, was to be the first Minister of Finance in the JLP–led government. Because the influence of teachers penetrated every home where there are children, is not difficult to understand why teachers and their union were such a force to reckon with in colonial Jamaica. They would be found in all social groups, clubs and organizations which impact the lives of people.

When independence came in 1962, teachers and their union had played a pivotal role in the nationalist movements. NITY at Independence, there were at least ten teachers’ organizations, five of which later coalesced around the JUT to create the JTA. These teachers’ organizations were mainly sector unions (secondary, tertiary and technical) and also represented categories, e.g. principals. The existence of these diverse organizations made negotiations a long and tedious affair and the government was able to play one against the others. Unity came in 1964 though it was in the works since 1957 with the birth of the West Indies Federation. Edith Dalton-James, who was three-time president of the Caribbean Union of Teachers, had never lost sight of the importance of unity in union action and took the initiative. The emergence of the JTA was the biggest single advance in Jamaica trade unionism since the passing of the 1919 legislation allowing trade unions. Indeed, one could say it heralded the move to create harmony in the trade union movement which culminated in the creation of the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions. The JTA surged forward from the 1960’s giving respectability and truly professionalizing teaching even surmounting attempts of internal schism. Many Jamaicans would not know that the rights now enjoyed were achieved by the yeoman efforts of teacher union leaders. These include: health insurance benefits, pension benefits (the first Pension (Teachers) Act was passed in 1947 and has undergone numerous amendments since) and teachers’ salaries. It must be noted that, through skillful negotiations, the salaries of teachers have consistently kept pace with developments in other areas of national life, except for the last four years. The 2007/8 re-alignment exercise is the single factor which enabled members of the teaching profession to weather the current wage freeze. Contrary to what our detractors may say, teachers and their union have given back significantly more to society.

INTO THE FUTURE

And what of tomorrow? What legacy shall we bequeath? A union’s work is never done. Rights and victories won have to be defended and fought over again and again as if they were never won before. Vigilance is the price we have to pay to maintain the gains we have won. We can’t rest on our achievements. The new teachers who join our ranks have not experienced the battles which brought us here and are impatient for change. What we hail as achievements against adversities are their reality. We must give new life and purpose to trade unionists without neglecting the very people who gave us a ‘raison d’être’. Teachers, our members; they must be the purpose of our work – not an interruption. It is they who must determine what we do and how we do it.

Teachers must feel that they are adequately represented, that we take them into account, that we are equipped and prepared to champion their cause. We must be prepared to move out of the offices into their place of work to witness their plight and to give them true representation. The JTA must know what teachers want, if it seeks to remain the monolithic trade union representing all teachers. Our officers must live the other half of our motto – to serve, and to serve well. Only then can we hope to survive. Adaptation is also critical. Trade unionism has changed. The old tactics will not work anymore. As we retrospect on our gains, let us also introspect to ensure we are worthy of the legacy and pledge to add to this glorious legacy, not just to keep and cherish, or we would have squandered it. Build on this legacy or we will not be worthy of this inheritance.

Patrick Smith is a former JTA President, former Acting Secretary General and former Secretary Member Services

November 10, 2015

And what of tomorrow? What legacy shall we bequeath? A union’s work is never done. Rights and victories won have to be defended and fought over again and again as if they were never won before.
Two college football players were taking an important final exam. If they failed, they would be on academic probation and not allowed to play in the big weekend match. The exam was a fill-in-the-blank type. The last question read, "Old MacDonald had a _______."

Bubba was stumped. He had no idea of the answer. He knew he needed to get this one right to be sure he passed. Making sure the lecturer wasn’t watching, he tapped Tony on the shoulder.

"Pssst. Tony. What’s the answer to the last question?"

Tony laughed. He looked around to make sure the lecturer hadn’t noticed then he turned to Bubba.

"Bubba, you’re so stupid. Everyone knows Old MacDonald had a farm."

"Oh yeah," said Bubba. "I remember now." He picked up his No. 2 pencil and started to write the answer in the blank. He stopped.

Reaching to tap Tony’s shoulder again, he whispered, "Tony, how do you spell farm?"

"You are really dumb, Bubba. That’s so easy. Farm is spelled E-I-E-I-O."

Girls Please

On the first day of college, the dean of discipline addressed the students, pointing out some of the rules:

"The female dormitory will be out-of-bounds for all male students, and the male dormitory to the female students. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined $2,000 the first time. Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined $6,000. Being caught a third time will cost you $18,000."

The dean said casting his eyes from one face to the next. "Are there any questions?"

One student raised his hand and asked, "How much for a season pass?"

I expect you all to be independent, critical thinkers, who follow instructions and do exactly as I say!

Miss a rhym really cheat enuh… we jus a social network!

There’s no need for an excuse…always get the work done (pencil of a Grade 3 child)

Did You Know?

St. Andrew has produced the Most National Presidents And Secretaries General?

National Presidents
1. Wesley Powell 1964 to 1965
2. Desmond Gascoigne 1965 to 1966
3. Aubrey Phillips 1967 to 1968
5. Ellorine Walker 1975 to 1976
7. Eric Downie 1988 to 1989
8. Dorothy Raymond 1989 to 1990
10. Ray Howell 1992 to 1993
11. Cyril Lerbert 1993 to 1994

Secretaries General
1. Ben Hawthorne
2. Fay E. Saunders
3. Eric Downie
4. Adolph Cameron

Can you read these right the first time?

1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
2) The farm was used to produce produce
3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10) I did not object to the object.

SO YOU KNOW ENGLISH!
The Clarion News; views, opinions and achievements in education.

Basil Benjie receiving his award from Janet Able Simpson, President for Kingston, at the parish’s 50th Anniversary Awards held at the JTA head office in Kingston.

Members of the Kingston East District Association pose after receiving their awards. Also sharing in the moment are (from left - back row) Ena Barclay, Acting Regional officer, Janet Able Simpson, Kingston Parish President, and JTA President, Doran Dixon (3th from left).

Members of the West Kingston District Association pose after receiving their awards. Also sharing in the moment are (from left - back row) Ena Barclay, Acting Regional officer, Janet Able Simpson, Kingston Parish President, and JTA President, Doran Dixon (3th from left).

Recipients of the Kingston Parish Association Fiftieth Anniversary awards function, holding their awards, at the JTA Head office, in February. Senior JTA officers share the moment.
Aubrey Phillips

After being awarded the Aubrey Phillips Scholarship in 2008, my Secondary School education began at Hampton School, an all girls’ institution located in Malvern, St Elizabeth. Hampton School is one of the top five High Schools in Jamaica, and since 1858 has been known for moulding and producing ladies of the finest ilk who lead with integrity through God and by example.

Decorum, leadership skills, determination, competitiveness, and humility are some of the attributes that I have attained during my tenure at the school. I have academically excelled throughout the years at Hampton, always maintaining a position on the school’s honour roll, and currently having a 3.9 GPA. I have passes in nine CSEC subjects and four CAPE subjects (unit one: a total of nine distinctions and four credits. I will sit CAPE Unit two in May of this year. I was recently accepted into a Medical School in China where I hope to pursue the MBBS degree.

Living in a single-parent household with my mother shouldering all the nurturing, caring, and financial responsibilities, was always difficult. Every year, we anxiously and gratefully awaited the scholarship funds. It has certainly been an honour to be a recipient of the scholarship, and yearly, it was on my agenda to make JTA proud. I greatly appreciate the opportunity and if given the chance, I would do it again.

What the Aubrey Phillips Scholarship did for me

Thirty-one students from various schools in Manchester have so far benefited from the Aubrey Phillips Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded annually in memory of the late Aubrey Phillips and is given to the student from the parish who has the highest performance in the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT).

Aubrey S. Phillips, the father of the current Finance Minister, Dr. Peter Phillips, is a Past President of the JTA (1967) and hails from Bellefield, Manchester. He played an integral role in the building of the Association which was inaugurated on April 3, 1964.

He was a former head of the School of Education at the University of the West Indies, Mona and a former Principal of the Moneague Teachers’ College, St. Ann.

As a result of the former professor’s pioneering efforts, the Aubrey Phillips scholarship was initiated and continues to assist students from Manchester annually.

PROUD OF HER

Shaunice Cowan

I am a single mother of three brilliant children. Although employed by the government of Jamaica as a Registered Nurse/Midwife, I have found it impossible to pay for my children’s education. The scholarship funds from JTA has been of great help, and every year, I looked forward to this provision. The contribution over the past seven years, has helped me to keep Shaunice at Hampton School. Shaunice and I will forever be grateful. Thanks JTA!!!!!!

Marie Cowan (Proud mother)
JTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

NATIONAL AWARDS

Former recipients of the Roll of Honour awards were also beneficiaries of the JTA 50th Anniversary awards L-R (Back row) Byron Farquharson, Ray Howell, Ena Barclay, Cyril Lebert, Professor Errol Miller, Front Row (L-R) Dr. Orville Taylor (guest speaker at the function) L. Judith Spencer Jarrett, Wesley Barrett and Dr. Dorothy Raymond

Former Secretary General (acting) Patrick Smith (left) shares a joke with former Member Services head, Millicent Buyllding (center). Secretary for Administration and Finance L. Judith Spencer Jarrett shares in the moment.

Recipients of the JTA 50th Anniversary awards display their awards after the event held at the Jamaica Pegasus in Kingston

50TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE

The 50th anniversary lecture delivered by Professor Errol Miller was one of the highlights of the celebration of the Association’s 50th anniversary. Speaking before leaders of the country, including policy makers and educators, Professor Miller raised some fundamental issues in education and made sound recommendations. Here, a section of the audience, including current and former JTA leaders, listens intently.
WELLNESS CLUB IN ACTION

Fashion Time! Members of the team take time out to showcase their dressing skills.

Joel Scott, a member of the JTA Travel & Wellness team, dances with one of the participants.

Comedian Christopher “Johnny” Daley speaks to some of the participants.

Charmaine Gooden Monteith is a dance freak and she shows Joel Scott (with mic) what she is capable of doing.

Guess Who? Judith Spencer Jarrett and Charmaine Gooden Monteith dancing up a storm. Who is the winner!!!!

The Getaway was fun filled. Here this man (blindfolded) tries to find his special one in the audience.