

MISSION

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) aims to deliver programs and services, provides a physical hub, and to advocate to improve the well-being and equity of Jamaican, Caribbean & African-Canadian communities within the Greater Toronto Area.

VISION

The Jamaican, Caribbean & African-Canadian communities will be a socially and economically equitable group that is represented and contributes at all levels to a strong diverse Canada.



President and Board Year End Reflection

Gratitude is a Must!

This was my theme throughout 2019. Like many of you, I am thankful for a year of many blessings but acknowledge that there were also many challenges.

I am especially thankful to the leadership team of board of directors and committee chairs who worked so hard and accomplished so much despite personal challenges and responsibilities. You may be interested to know the average age of board members is approximately 44 years. That means most of us are in mid stages of our careers, with children in middle or high school, while our younger directors are beginning their career journey. Their commitment to JCA is admirable and I am inspired by them. I hope you are too.

We began 2019 optimistic about implementing a few initiatives. Among them was to make a dent in the Burn the Mortgage Campaign, secure other forms of donations and sponsorship for the building and events, focus on youth and young adult engagement and, continue to find ways to broaden the JCA brand through partnerships. JCA continues to achieve our goals relying on 100% volunteers.

This year turned out to be significant for several reasons, most notably the burning of our mortgage thanks in large part to **Denham Jolly**, but also others such as Roy Williams. Denham's donation was a welcome and timely gift. We sincerely thank him for his generosity and trust in us. We are also extremely thankful to **Kamala-Jean Gopie** for her unwavering support, encouragement and advice over the course of the Burn the Mortgage Campaign. Her \$25,000 donor matching campaign, which shifted in August from supporting Burn the Mortgage to a Donor Matching Campaign for building renovations, propelled us to host a telethon on December 28 to ensure we maximized every opportunity to secure matching funds. We raised **\$5,200** from Saturday's telethon. In total, **\$26,207.94** was raised for this campaign!! Thank you.

Nuff respect to the Telethon team:

Alton Brooks (Coordinator), David Betty, Alvin Knight, Herrol Mattocks, Michelle McKenzie-Dolly, Sandra Young, Orville Patrick, Audrey Campbell and Janet Samms for implementing this innovative idea in less than two weeks. We also appreciate Glen Gordon, Shawnee Hardware, Jennifer McFarlane who supported this initiative on telethon day.

Special mention and thank you to Membership Chair, Sandra Young who recently donated \$10,000 and long-standing member Syd Weir who donated \$5000 at the November Quarterly Meeting. Finally, to the many donors who contributed to the campaign since its inception in 2016, we appreciate you. You believed in the possibility and worked with us continuously to make this happen.

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VALUES

Respect & Dignity - Staff, volunteers, and community members who participate in JCA activities and use its services will treat each other with respect and dignity.

Diversity - We value and respect the diversity of our staff, the people who make up our membership, and of those who use our services regardless of their racial and cultural backgrounds, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, and visible/invisible challenges.

Integrity - We employ honesty and ethical decision-making practices in all that we do.

Advocacy - We recognize the need to increase resources to contribute to the well-being of the communities we serve. We support this position by working with individuals, organizations, and others in an effort to influence the policy decisions that impact these communities.

Excellence - We are committed to ensuring that clients and customers receive high quality services from well-informed and well-qualified staff.

In addition to donations for the mortgage, JCA received significant in-kind donations in 2019. Special thanks to Chris Campbell and **Carpenters Union Local 27** for the donation of new countertops and sinks in the Hall One washrooms. They look fantastic! Our 2019 Community Award recipient Ivan Dawns from the **International Union of Painters and Allied Trades** sponsored and supported two painting days. They painted the halls and helped to secure paint from their partners. Ivan and team, we appreciate you.

JCA Strategic Priorities (5 key areas)	Education Definition: building individual skills – financial literacy, computer training, planning for retirement, citizenship classes	Culture Definition: preserving and promoting Jamaican, Caribbean, African culture	Advocacy Definition: addressing issues that adversely impact the Jamaican, Caribbean, African communities	Community Hub Definition: a gathering space for community events – social, political, educational	Youth Definition: creating a 'village' for children & youth – mentorship, tutoring, skills building, promoting education
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I am so pleased that the Board of Directors approved a strategic plan for the organization. Since 2016, we have had several strategic discussions and finally found time to identify specific outcomes we would like to achieve between now and 2022.

Outcomes

1. Increased supports for the community – **education & advocacy**
2. Increased engagement of individuals under 35 years - **youth**
3. Increased partnerships – **advocacy & culture**
4. Increased number of new/renewed members and active volunteers – **hub & culture**
5. Improved accountability & sustainability - **hub**

Highlights of 2019

There were so many moments to remember this year. Committee and Event Chairs, we celebrate you.

Culture – all about Miss Lou

Beginning with the Boonoonoonos Brunch, honouring Miss Lou, and ending with a cultural trip to Jamaica in September, we celebrated the life and legacy of the Honourable Louise Bennett-Coverley. The 52 trip participants experienced the geographical, historical and cultural diversity of Jamaica. Key partners were the Jamaica Tourist Board, the Jamaica Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, McMaster University, Harbourfront Centre, and Fabian Coverley.

Youth - we launched the International Students Initiative, aimed at engaging and supporting international students from Jamaica and the Caribbean. This included a focus group and forum as well as a dinner hosted at the JCA Centre after November's Quarterly Meeting.

The Team knocked it out of the park with this year's Annual Children's Christmas Party featuring our all-time favourite Santa, Gifford Walker. Not only was this event fully sponsored by Western Union, it included traditional Jamaican Christmas storytelling by Letna Allen-Rowe and activities galore for adults and children. A fun time was had by all.

Education – the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program underwent some changes to ensure it continues to meet the needs of children in grades one to twelve. Participants enjoyed two sponsored field trips this past year, a tour of Humber College's new Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation Building and a visit to the Nelson Mandela Exhibit at the Median Arts Centre.

Community Hub – the Toronto Police Services hosted its Black History Month celebration at the JCA Centre. The Members Lounge committee ran its first successful pilot during July and August. We also partnered with several individuals and organizations to host a Community Christmas Dinner on December 25.

Advocacy – JCA responded to various issues including a request to work with TPS to address issues of gang violence in the City and understanding recent changes to immigration policy. As discussed at the last quarterly meeting, JCA has been working with two other organizations to help develop a Black credit union in the Greater Toronto Area. More to come on this in 2020.

This year's Women Health & Wellness Fair 'Healing from Trauma: Invisible Wounds' was powerful and so timely with topics addressing racism, grief and aging.

As 2019 comes to a close, I remember our beloved Daphne Bailey and other JCA members who are no longer with us, faced illness or other personal challenges this past year. It is my hope that 2020 brings you blessings and that you will continue to support the organization and celebrate the good things. Don Simon, President of the Jamaican Canadian Association Alberta posted the following on social media:

"Keep going, and don't worry about your speed. You're making progress, even if it doesn't seem like it. Forward is forward, no matter how slow." Lori Deschane.

Happy New Year and all the best for 2020.

Adaoma

On behalf of Alton, David, Jodieka, Kashane, Janet, Yolande, Michelle, Natalee – your JCA Board of Directors

Picture Highlights











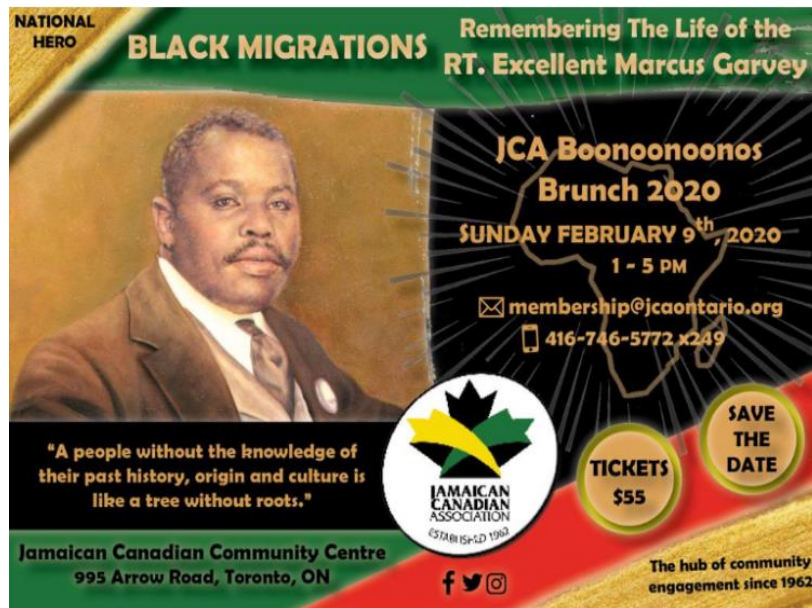
We would like to acknowledge and thank Atavia Surtees, great grand-daughter of JCA founding members, Raphaelita and Gifford Walker, for planning the 2019 Children's Christmas party. She did an outstanding job!

Special Thanks to:

Western Union
LIUNA Local 183
Pizza Pizza
Zarie Lorne Law
Patty Palace

Thank you,
Natasha Douglas (grand-neice of Raphaelita and Gifford)

Upcoming Events



Upcoming Events

Feb 9 – Boonoonoonos Brunch

Feb 23 – Quarterly Membership Meeting

Feb 25 – Seniors Black History Celebration

Feb 27 – Annual Black History Month Student Showcase

Mar 8 – JCA Women's Day Celebration



This year would not have been successful without our generous Sponsors and Donors. We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge those who contributed to us throughout this year.

KAMALA-JEAN GOPIE MATCHING FUNDS TELETHON 2019

Adaoma Patterson	Francella Moore
Adolphus Smith	Glenford Gordon
Alton Brooks	Heather Ricketts
Alvin Knight	Herrol Mattocks
Ann Blackford	Jason Silvera
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Anonymous Donor	Jerome Whyte
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Errol Whittle	Victoria Nelson
Eunice Graham	Vilma Garnett
Everton Gordon	Violet Dennison
Ezra Nesbeth	Wellesley Thompson
	Wycliffe McFarlane

*This list is based on funds received by December 31, 2019

Major Supporters – 2019

Western Union
Carpenters Union Local 27
International Union of Painters & Allied Trades
Covenant Funeral Homes Inc.