

# AFJ HAPPENINGS

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF JAMAICA, INC. NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

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2006

## Message From the President

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our



Amb. Glen Holden

quarterly newsletter *AFJ Happenings*. One month into our 25th Anniversary Celebratory year I bring some new announcements and changes in the AFJ. The American Friends of Jamaica continues to grow. We have a lot to look forward to as we prepare for our 2nd Annual South Florida Gala scheduled for April 1, and our 25th Anniversary gala later this year. I am also pleased to announce the addition of Laura Tanna as the newest Board

member and announced earlier this month the appointment of a new Executive Director Keisha Phipps, who succeeds Lacy Wright, and brings a wealth of experience to her new post. With all these positive changes, it is with deep regret that we mourn the loss of Gen. Donald Dawson, our Chairman Emeritus, a great man who I had the pleasure of knowing for many years.

We look ahead with a renewed commitment to the Jamaican people and hope you will join us in increasing our reach to the organizations that need us most. Your involvement can lead to significant change in Jamaica.

Sincerely,  
Amb. Glen A. Holden, ret.

## SAVE THE DATE

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF JAMAICA

is pleased to announce its

2nd Annual South Florida Auction and Gala

Saturday, April 1, 2006

The Biltmore Hotel  
Coral Gables, Florida

Reception and Silent Auction 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner and Awards Program 8:00 p.m.  
Followed by Live Entertainment

## HONORING

HON. OLIVER F. CLARKE, O.J.

Individual International Humanitarian Award  
Chairman and Managing Director  
The Gleaner Company

## DIAGEO

Corporate International Humanitarian Award  
A Leading Premium Drinks Business  
Producer of Red Stripe Beer

Visit [www.theAFJ.org/gala](http://www.theAFJ.org/gala)  
Tickets available online



## New AFJ Board Member Laura Tanna

The American Friends of Jamaica recently welcomed a

new board member Dr. Laura Tanna to the leadership team.

Laura Tanna, a writer whose first degree in Comparative Literature is from The University of California at Berkeley, holds a doctorate in African Languages and Literature from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

She was born in Montana, has lived in England, France, Uganda and Jamaica, and is married to businessman Dhiru Tanna. Dr. Laura Tanna has been active in researching and documenting Jamaican oral traditions since 1973 and has served on the Central Committee of the Jamaica Memory Bank, the Council of the Institute of Jamaica, the Board of the Creative Production and Training Centre, the Advisory Board of the African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica and the board of King's House

Foundation. Her interviews cover a wide-range of international personalities and she writes frequently on art, culture and travel for *The Gleaner*, *Jamaica Journal*, and *Skywritings*. She is author of the book and video *Jamaican Folk Tales and Oral Histories*, producer of *Jamaican Folk Tales and Oral Histories* and *Maroon Storyteller* audiocassettes, author of *Baugh: Jamaica's Master Potter*, and co-editor of *Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Development in Jamaica* by Gillian Lindsay-Nanton. Dr. Tanna's latest publication is the section on Jamaica in the

Fundamental to the AFJ mission is the ability to bring resources both cash and in-kind to Jamaican non-profits in the areas of education, healthcare and economic development. These resources serve as enablers to facilitate the execution of the important projects serving many Jamaicans. For the past 25 years the AFJ has contributed over \$10 million to organizations and in the process has emerged as a leading organization in the field of philanthropy supporting Jamaica.

Our grantees are diverse and their missions range from advancing literacy, housing mothers and children with HIV/AIDS, to teaching entrepreneurship, to name a few. All very compelling cases that only illustrate the importance of our work. The ability to change the trajectory of someone's life should excite you to become involved. The AFJ represents an excellent opportunity to channel your charitable dollars to those in need especially in an environment of poor economic conditions.

*AFJ Happenings* will continue to profile these organizations and their work. In this, the 2nd issue of *AFJ Happenings*, we feature one of our grantees, Tools for Development and its impact in the community, our recent NYC gala, and pay tribute to Gen. Donald Dawson and Lacy Wright. Most importantly, we have a call to action - I invite you to share in my optimism and assist us in advancing our mission - Volunteer, Donate, Attend, Spread the Word!

There is no limit to what we can do.

Keisha A. Phipps  
Executive Director

## AFJ Gala

### Bringing corporations, government and non-profits together

On Saturday, November 5, 2005 the American Friends of Jamaica hosted a glittering and memorable night in honor of Jamaica at our 24th Annual Benefit Gala and Auction at the historic Copacabana in New York City.

The event recognized **Western Union International** and Jamaican conglomerate **GraceKennedy Ltd** with the International Humanitarian Award for their commitment to development initiatives in Jamaica.

Ambassador Glen A. Holden (ret.), pledged renewed commitment to Jamaica's educational, health and community organizations with funds earmarked for non-profits this year.

The AFJ wishes to thank all who attended and contributed to the success of the event, especially the sponsors, host committee and volunteers.

*\* Photos by Buddington Photo*



*Amb. Holden presents award to Christina Gold and Tom McDermott of Western Union International*



*Douglas Orane with GraceKennedy Limited team*



*Keisha Phipps, Congressman Charlie Rangel, NY State Assemblyman Nick Perry and wife*



*Amb. Sue Cobb, Amb. Chuck Cobb, Amb. Brenda Johnson, Hon. K.D. Knight, Consul General Basil Bryan*

## 25th Anniversary Gala Call For Volunteers

The American Friends of Jamaica will host its **Silver Anniversary Gala** later this year, celebrating 25 years of successfully supporting charitable causes in Jamaica.

We are actively recruiting volunteers to assist us in making our 25th Anniversary Gala as successful as possible. To volunteer, please contact Keisha Phipps via email at [kphipps@theafj.org](mailto:kphipps@theafj.org) or call **212-626-6883**.

Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas: Sponsorship, Auction, Public Relations, Sales, Entertainment and Logistics.

# Grantee Corner

## TOOLS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Tools for Development Jamaica Ltd. (TDJ) has embraced an initiative that directly impacts the community of small business owners in Jamaica. It is a not for profit organization that provides used equipment as well as training for micro and small entrepreneurs. TDJ's main objective is to create new jobs and strengthen existing ones.

The AFJ currently funds a 'Skills Training for Micro and Small Entrepreneurs' course which is a part of TDJ's Workforce Improvement Program. The objective of the course is to provide participants with an understanding of how business operates and to expose business owners to factors such as costing, procurement, marketing, finishing, time management, and most importantly money management. This project geared towards the economic development of inner-city communities is the direct result of the environment in which entrepreneurs lack the basic skills required to compete and run successful businesses.

TDF now provides the necessary tools at an affordable price as well as the technical training required. Ultimately Tools for Development is improving in a sustainable way the living standard of individuals and families whose livelihood depends on these businesses.

## Maj. Gen. Donald S. Dawson *Remembering His Legacy*

With deep regret The American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ) has learned of the passing of Maj. Gen. Donald S. Dawson, our Chairman Emeritus and our former President. Gen. Dawson died at his home in Bethesda, Maryland, on Christmas Day at the age of 97.

Gen. Dawson was among the group who, in 1981, founded the AFJ. Others

Since inception TDJ has supplied tools and machinery to over 350 micro and small entrepreneurs engaged in woodwork, garment, metal work, and welding.

**Tools for Development - Making a difference in the lives of small business owners.**

**NEW BOARD MEMBER:  
Laura Tanna continued  
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**Encyclopedia of World Folklore and Folklife** by Greenwood Press, 2005.

She was voted to the AFJ Board at the November 2005 AFJ board meeting in New York City. The addition of Ms. Tanna is one of many changes to the AFJ including the new appointment of Executive Director Keisha Phipps.

Ms. Tanna joins a distinguished board consisting of James A. Cada, Sylvia Engel, Sydney Engel, Dr. Wilfred G. Gooden, Manuela Goren, Amb. Glen A. Holden, ret., Monica Ladd, Lorraine Lorenc, Peggy Steuart, Becky Stockhausen and Lacy A. Wright.

included then-U.S. Ambassador Loren Lawrence, Jamaican ambassador Sir Egerton Richardson, Mrs. Audrey Zauderer, and Anne S. Sabo. Gen. Dawson became AFJ President after the departure of his predecessor, Amb. Lawrence, in 1982, and held that position until 1997. He was succeeded by the current President, Amb. Glen A. Holden.

“ An international human rights activist whose interest in humanity had no bounds.

-- AFJ Founder Anne Sabo

Published by the American Friends of Jamaica, *AFJ Happenings* is the quarterly newsletter of the organization.

The mission of the AFJ is to provide aid to Jamaican non-profits in the areas of education, healthcare and economic development.

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### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Amb. Glen A. Holden, ret.
<i>Vice President</i>	Sydney Engel
<i>Secretary</i>	James Cada
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lacy A. Wright, Jr.
<i>Executive Director</i>	Keisha A. Phipps

### DIRECTORS

James A. Cada	Monica Ladd
Sydney Engel	Lorraine Lorenc
Sylvia Engel	Mrs. Guy T. Steuart, II
Dr. Wilfred G. Gooden	Becky Stockhausen
Manuela Goren	Dr. Laura Tanna
Amb. Glen A. Holden, ret.	Lacy A. Wright, Jr.

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Gen. Dawson enjoyed a career of enormous versatility and success. Amb. Holden, “Don Dawson’s strong presence and dedicated involvement in the AFJ in its formative years must surely be considered one of the keys to our durability and success. We owe him and Ginny Dawson a great deal, and we salute him as a leader of vision and originality.”

*A man of vision*

# A New Era of Leadership

## From Lacy A. Wright to Keisha A. Phipps



Lacy A. Wright

Lacy A. Wright has left the executive directorship of the AFJ to return to private consulting, but will remain on the AFJ Board of Directors. During his two and a half years, the AFJ increased revenues, broadened the number of Jamaican grantees, held its best-attended New York gala fundraising dinner, and extended its fundraising reach via the establishment of an annual South Florida gala in Miami, now in its second year.

*Philanthropy benefiting the people of Jamaica.*



Keisha A. Phipps

Louis Slesin of the Grodzins Fund adds, "Lacy is a good facilitator. When we asked how we could best help fight the HIV epidemic in Montego Bay, Lacy put us in touch with Fr. Gregory Ramkissoon at the Mustard Seed Communities. It was an excellent match."

Mr. Wright's relationship with Jamaica dates from 1991, when he and his wife Jackie were assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Kingston. He began as Deputy Chief of Mission to now-AFJ President Amb. Glen

Holden and then served two years as Charge d'Affaires. In 2000-2003, having left the diplomatic service, he was a regular columnist for the Jamaica Daily Gleaner.

Keisha Phipps, previously AFJ COO has succeeded Mr. Wright as Executive Director. Ms. Phipps also dedicated to Jamaica's development has received special recognition for her dedication to the island through social and public advocacy work. As Executive Director Ms. Phipps will deliver on a strategic plan to position AFJ as the leader in philanthropy to the island. AFJ's strategic priorities will include creating world class Jamaican non-profits; establishing partnerships with individuals, corporations, foundations and academia; increasing donors; ensuring financial sustainability; and building organizational capacity.

Ms. Phipps has been active in the non-profit sector for the last 10 years and has been credited with the successful growth of numerous organizations.

Become an American Friend !

### MAKE A DONATION

Please make all contributions payable to: **The American Friends of Jamaica**

1120 Avenue of the Americas, Fourth Floor  
New York NY 10036

YES! I want to be an American Friend. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Type (Visa/Mastercard/American Express) Credit Card Number Expiration Date

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  Company will match my gift. Form is enclosed

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if contribution is earmarked for a specific Jamaican non-profit organization.

All contributions are tax deductible.

For inquiries:

212-626-6883 phone  
800-901-9770 phone

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800-901-9771 fax

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http://www.theAFJ.org

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PHILANTHROPY**  
Accountability  
and Trust