



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Inside This Issue



- 1 President's Message
- 1 About us
- 1 Board Members
- 2 **Feature: The roles and responsibilities of the Officers and Directors**
- 3 Omar Ramus, Youth Representative
- 3 Senior Representative
- 3 Getting Involved
- 3 Membership 2020: Dues, Drives, & Cards
- 4 Events (January - March)
- 4 Programs & Services

ABOUT US

The Association was founded in November 1962, shortly after Jamaica's Independence in August 1962. Our seal of Incorporation was granted in 1970. Since its inception, the Association has grown strong in attracting members.

It is recognized as the official organization representing Jamaicans in Montreal at Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels. We are a member of the United Council for Human Rights and have accompanied delegations and presented briefs to all levels of government. Given our commitment to community development, the Jamaica Association developed our Mission Statement as follows:

"To assist in improving and enhancing the quality of life for the Jamaican Community"

In fulfilling this Mission, the Association manages its operations to ensure the development of the community through economical, educational, cultural and social activities.



Mark Henry, President
Jamaica Association of Montreal

Dear Members and Friends,
I take this opportunity to wish you and family a very Happy New Year filled with health and prosperity!

I am truly humbled and deeply honored that I have been given the mandate as President of the Jamaica Association. I value and recognize the responsibility I have to lead our historic organization over the coming years. It is an exciting time for me and our newly elected Board of Directors as we embark on plans to continue to grow what our predecessors have built over the past 57 years. I have instructed Board members to look forward to these exciting times and not look back on the challenges we overcame. As Jamaicans we are strong, resilient and more that capable to raise our community and organizations to heights never experienced before and that which we have dreamt of for decades.

My professional experience spans 21 years as an Industrial sales representative for East Penn Canada, a battery manufacturing plant located in Pennsylvania, the last 4 of those years as Regional Manager for Quebec & Ontario. Under my leadership, we have built a very strong team that has led to 30% sales growth. My goal is to bring that same type of leadership to the Association. The Board's primary roles are to serve, inspire, encourage and unite the organization and community. I am extremely impressed with the members of the Board that you have elected and I look forward to working with them individually and collectively.

My vision for the Jamaica Association is improving our professionalism at all levels that include myself, Board members, staff, membership on a whole, partners and affiliates.

Professionalism is the conduct, behavior and attitude of someone in a work or business environment. A person doesn't have to work in a specific profession to demonstrate the important qualities and characteristics of a professional.

I believe that this conduct will increase the profile of our Association and create more networking opportunities with other influential organizations.

I take this opportunity to thank Michael Smith, our outgoing President, who has dedicated the last 4 years of his life in this role for this Association and community. During his mandate, our Association has been extremely active and has brought a fresh group of participants. I would like to wish him all the best as a President of the Foundation and look forward to continuing to work well together to build both the Association and its Foundation.

Finally, in the coming months, I will do my best to meet with the wonderful members of our great community both active and non-active members, and to hear your thoughts and ideas that I will bring to our Board of Directors and discuss. I strongly encourage you to attend our membership meetings, events that we put on and become a participant in our organization and not simply an advisor. Our strength and plans will only be effective if we have your support.

"Out of many one people"



(l to r): **Shelley Morgan**, Secretary * **Aston Mendez**, Treasurer * **Sharon Nelson**, 1st Vice President * **Uton Lynch**, Director * **Keisha Wilson**, Director * **Mark Henry**, President * **Brian Kotler**, Director * **Carlene Clarke**, Director * **Alexander Townsend**, 2nd Vice President. Our first member's meeting is on Saturday, February 15th, 2020

Announcing the members of our newly elected Board of Directors.

The members of the Association elected the members of this Board on December 14, 2019 at the Annual General Meeting

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 4065 Jean Talon W., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1W6 * Phone: (514) 737-8229

Email: info@jam-montreal.com * Website: <http://jam-montreal.com> * Facebook: <http://facebook.com/jamontreal>

FEATURE: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

 <p>MARK HENRY President</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oversees organizational operations & functional activities 2. Ensures the financial viability of the Association 3. Outreach to organizations & government 	 <p>SHARON NELSON 1st Vice President</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manages bar operations 2. Human resource responsibilities
 <p>ALEXANDER TOWNSEND 2nd Vice President</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairs the Social Committee 2. Supports the 1st Vice President regarding the bar 	 <p>ASTON MENDEZ Treasurer</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensures board & membership receives regular financial statements 2. Works in collaboration with the President on the the Association's budget and other financial matters.
 <p>SHELLEY MORGAN, Secretary & Director, Senior Relations</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepares meeting agenda , takes minutes & communicates with the board, members & friends 2. Creates programming for seniors 	<p>Overview: The Board of Directors is comprised 9 persons: 5 Officers & 4 Directors. Each person has assigned roles that help to build and strengthen the Association.</p> <p>Officers have two-year mandates while Directors have one-year mandates.</p> <p>The Board of Directors are required to report activities at the membership meetings, if applicable.</p>	

DIRECTORS

 <p>CARLENE CLARKE Government Relations & Program Improvements</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports on pertinent government updates & other information 2. Assesses program delivery in other organizations and suggests improvements at JAM 	 <p>BRIAN KOTLER Special Events & Performances</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creates and promotes special events 2. Manages performances at the Association as well as outside the Association.
 <p>UTON LYNCH Maintenance & Upkeep</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsible for cleanliness & maintenance 2. Ensures required repairs are completed 	 <p>KEISHA WILSON Health Awareness</p>	<p>Main Roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creates awareness & activities on health & fitness at the Association 2. Apart of organizations focusing on health & fitness

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 4065 Jean Talon W., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1W6 * Phone: (514) 737-8229

Email: info@jam-montreal.com * Website: <http://jam-montreal.com> * Facebook: <http://facebook.com/jammontreal>

**GET INVOLVED
EASY AS A-B-C!**

A) Committees & Chairs

**1 – Jamaica Association
Business Owners &
Professionals (JABOP)**
Mark Henry

2 – Membership Committee
Mark Henry

3 – Social Committee
Alexander Townsend

4 – Women’s Auxiliary (WA)
Sharon Nelson

**B) Share your ideas for
programs, events or
improvements**

C) Volunteer for an event

Call or email the JAM office to speak with the Chairs of these Committees.
(Ph): 514-737-8229
(E): info@jam-montreal.com

**SEEKING: ENGAGED
SENIOR
REPRESENTATIVE
ON JAM BOARD**

We are in search of an engaged Senior to sit on the JAM Board. This individual would give insight into what seniors would like to have at the Association; however, this individual would have non-voting rights on board matters. If you are Jamaican between the ages of 60 & 75 years old, interested in community work, and you want to positively impact your community, then call us. There will be an interview.

**MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS
PRIVILEGES & ITS
RESPONSIBILITIES**

PRIVILEGES

1. Preferred pricing on certain events
 2. An updated membership card*
 3. Voting rights at the Annual General meetings
 4. Contributing to the growth of our Association
- *see below for more information*

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Sign the registry at all member’s meetings
2. Update your contact information
3. **Pay your membership dues for the 2020 year** (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30)
4. Respect the rules of membership

DUES & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Family **\$40**
(2 children (under 17 yrs old) & 2 adults),
Adult **\$25** (18 - 59 yrs)
Students **\$10** (12 -17 yrs)
& Seniors **\$10** (60+ yrs)

At our November 2017 member’s meeting, the Board passed a resolution extending the membership year to match our fiscal year. Therefore, membership dues are to be paid between Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 of the year in question to benefit from the stated privileges.

There are a number of benefits of getting your card. Contact us today to find out more.

Thanks to the management at Kane and Fetterly for your support !



CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 4065 Jean Talon W., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1W6 * **Phone:** (514) 737-8229
Email: info@jam-montreal.com * **Website:** http://jam-montreal.com * **Facebook:** http://facebook.com/jammontreal

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM**

The Jamaica Association of Montreal is launching a Youth Leadership Development Program. This program is designed to **empower** and **engage** youths of the Greater Montreal Black community, **equipping** them with the necessary tools, skills and network that will prepare them to become **leaders** within our community.

The Youth Leadership Program will involve different workshops, activities and opportunities centered around leadership, community involvement, and both personal & professional development. If you are an ambitious or motivated CEGEP or university student between the ages of 18-25, who would like to build valuable leadership, teamwork and social skills, get mentorship opportunities, and get involved in your community, this program is definitely for you. Please contact Omar Ramus, JAM Youth Representative, at info@jam-montreal.com for more information.



Omar Ramus, JAM Youth Representative

ABOUT OMAR RAMUS

1. Engaged youth
2. Graduate, Bachelor of Commerce, Concordia University (2018)
3. Human Resource Analyst, Canada Post Corporation

The members of the Board of Directors are very pleased to have Omar as part of the board, albeit as a non-voting member, but one who we believe will contribute greatly to the growth of our Association.

OUR 7 PROGRAMS

- Au Futur Program (Young Mothers)**
 For women between **15 and 35** years old with one or more children. Click [here](#) for more information on this confidential service. *Cost: **FREE. (Federally Funded by Health Canada)** Contact: **Sue Hamilton**, Program Coordinator Cell: **438-499-8229**
- Footsteps Program**
 A [program](#) run on Saturdays from 1 pm to 5 pm for toddlers and children aged 0 to 9 yrs old. Includes reading activities, arts and crafts. Healthy snacks are provided, and there are qualified volunteer educators on site to assist. Contact **Sue Hamilton**
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programs**
 We offer individual, as well as small classes with qualified & experienced teachers in a variety of subjects. Classes take place in the evenings with one-to-one tutoring also available. Per term registration fee gives access to all courses: **\$30.00**. Click [here](#) to view course descriptions and schedule. **All ABE courses are offered at the Jamaica Association of Montreal** (see address below). Contact **Aranija Kathiresu**, Coordinator of Programs and Services during office hours at **514-737-8229** to register for classes
- Brilliant Minds Tutoring** for high school students – [help with schoolwork](#) and career planning. Contact **Aranija Kathiresu**
- Food Bank** in collaboration with Moisson Montréal. The [Food Bank](#) is open **Thursdays, January to December**, from 10 am to 2 pm. (holiday notices posted as necessary)
 Registration: Mandatory.
 Cost: \$3.00 per person, standard fee.
 Contact **Aranija Kathiresu**
 Registration and collection at the Association.
Note: New arrivals to Canada and new users of the food bank are asked to call one day in advance
- Tax Preparation**
 We offer free tax preparation services for participants in the **Young Mothers and Footsteps programs**. Call **514-737-8229**
- Steel Pan Classes**
Fatima Wilson of Salah Steel Pan will be offering courses on Sundays for kids and adults.
Contact number: 514-655-6239
 Schedules
Spring – April to June
 Times and Costs:
 Kids - 12:30 – 2:00 pm - \$40
 Adults – 2:30 – 5:00 pm - \$60
 This course is for novices and those who have some knowledge of pan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Overproof Fridays** Friday nights
 8 pm – 3 am, FREE
 Valentine's Day Special – Feb 14, 2020
- Food Bank** Thursdays, \$3.00
 10 am - 2 pm
- ABE Program Winter session** Mar. 17 to Jun. 18
 Call **Aranija Kathiresu**, 514-737-8229
- 1st Member's Meeting for 2020** Sat., Feb. 15, 7 pm
- Games Night** Sat., Feb. 21, 9 pm
- WA Speaker Series** Wed., Feb 26, 6 pm
 "Facing Mental Health in the Black & Caribbean Community"
 Shirlette Wint, Audley Coley, Caren Mellow & Stefan St. Hilaire
John Molson (1450 Guy, 10th floor, room MB 10.101)
- West Can Afro-Caribbean workshops**
 Wed. Mar. 11 – storytelling 7 pm, Wed. Mar. 18 – folk singing, 7 pm
 Wed. Mar. 25 – drumming (seniors 5 pm, children 6 pm, adults 7:30 pm),
 Wed. Apr. 1 - folk dance (seniors 5 pm, children 6 pm, adults 7:30 pm)
 \$15 suggested donation per workshop
 Call JAM to register 514-737-8229
- Parade – St. Patrick's Day (MTL)** Sun., Mar. 22, 2 pm
 Montreal 's 197th St. Patrick's Day Parade
 (more information to follow)
- Parade – St. Patrick's Day** Sun., Mar. 29, 12 pm
 Chateauguay St. Patrick's Day Parade
 (more information to follow)
- The Association will open on select Saturdays from 9 pm to 3 am as of March 2020. Old school reggae & big people music and feel... more info to follow !**

OUR 6 SERVICES

UPDATED office hours: Mon – Fri. 9 am to 6 pm

- Documents:** Passports, Permanent Resident Card, Commissioner of Oaths
- Space rental** for your special events (birthdays, private parties, baby showers, shows, etc... - includes tables (table and chair coverings extra)) & [band rehearsals](#)
- Community Service Program**
- Licensed Restaurant** – The Jerk Pit – Open Friday evenings as of 9 pm
- Fully Licensed Bar** – Open Fridays as of 8 pm, Saturdays on certain occasions, for rentals and other events
- A fun & secure place to come together** to enjoy each other's company and friendships

Created by Sharon Nelson & Shelley Morgan, next issue April 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 4065 Jean Talon W., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1W6 * **Phone:** (514) 737-8229

Email: info@jam-montreal.com * **Website:** <http://jam-montreal.com> * **Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/jammontreal>