



Westwood Old Girls Association

Jappa Times

Volume 1, Issue 4, January 2018

What's Inside?

Tea Party



Fire At Westwood



Mentorship



Great Gatsby



RetroMania



Featured Old Girls



Fond Memories

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Memorabilia



Sometimes,
The simple things we don't realize,
Make the most pleasant surprize,
Even if you gave an iota,
It made WOGA stronger.

For answering the calls for donations,
And your voluntary contributions,
For your kind words and thoughts.
Or, just being a part ... Thank You!

From the depths of our hearts, We say – THANK YOU.

~ Trevor "Maguyva" McKoy 2017



Jappa Times Memo

The intention of The *Jappa Times* is to disseminate information on what has happened, is happening and will happen within the association quarterly.

However, we have several other communication media. As such, if you are not on our mailing list or connected to any of our channels but would like to be, please send us an email at:

westwoodite@gmail.com

or sign up on our official website at:

www.TheWoga.org.

Please be reminded that all ideas are welcomed for the benefit of our alma mater and this Association.

We would LOVE to hear from you!!!

- Do you have a fundraising idea?
- Would you like to donate to an initiative or even start one?
- Do you just want to share your thoughts on the performance of the school or the association?
- Would you like to nominate an old girl to be featured?
- Would you like to submit an article, short story, poem or artwork for publication?
- Do you have photos or fond memories of your time at Westwood and would like to share?
- Would you like to purchase memorabilia?
- Would you like to help plan our next event or would you like to know when is our next event?

Email us today: westwoodite@gmail.com

*The Association belongs to all of us...
Only through working together can we make
WOGA better.*

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Rebuilding the Wall - Restoring the Pride -

This project, spearheaded by Lavern Stewart, Sixth Form Coordinator, began in March. The focus of this intervention involved improving the aesthetic appeal of the school's entrance and student safety as well as improving school pride among past and present students.

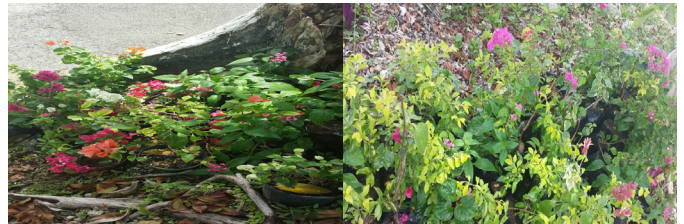


Although not yet complete, we are proud to say that there has been much progress in the rebuilding of the wall and entrance to the school.

If you are interested in assisting with this project please, feel free to contact us. Any and all assistance is welcome!



When we were approached regarding this project we immediately jumped on board. Funds received from the Digicel Foundation totalling \$138,000 was immediately diverted from our initial project to this. We tried to assist wherever possible, whether it was by asking old girls to assist by purchasing a load of sand by donating \$2,000 or by collecting funds at our meetings to purchase flowers for the property.



Thanks to everyone who assisted in making this possible, and to the Westwood staff and students, WOGA truly enjoyed participating.



135 Years Church Service - South Florida Chapter -

Ten ladies attended the South Florida Chapter church service at The Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. They were representative of an expanse of 30 years, Class of 1953 – 1982.

Ms. Hazel Hylton '53, Mrs. Doreth Smith '53, Juliet Bond '72, Denese Rose Bartley '74, Audrey Brown Harris '74, Cheryl Spence McKay '77, Clytie Grant Williamson '78, Marcia Delvees '78, Beverley Fray '79, Lavern Smith '82 and Olga Coy '74.

The message was delivered by Rev. Earl Henry, Rector, who delivered a message of “Encouragement for Volunteerism“, encouraging all who do work to help others, not to lose faith, but to keep focused on the goals set.



In this 135 year of Westwood existence, this was a very fitting message as the WOGA chapters struggle to maintain interest in our 120 year old association.



Tea Time In Summer - South Florida Chapter -

Photo highlights from our annual tea party held on Saturday, July 15th at the Plantation United Methodist Church Hall, Plantation Florida.



*'The Jippa Jappa Girls'
~ South Florida Chapter WOGA*



All cutlery and chinaware from this event were later shipped to Jamaica and donated to Westwood for use by staff and students, post the devastating fire in the kitchen and dining room.



Fire At Westwood

Shortly after we began the celebrations for our 135th Anniversary, we were met with both happy and traumatic news.

The fire, which was confined to the kitchen and main dining room areas, destroyed the roof, furniture and heavy-duty appliances. Classes at Westwood were suspended indefinitely following a fire on the night of May 2, 2017.

We were relieved that none of the girls were hurt and we laud the efforts of the firefighters and plant supervisor in quickly containing the fire. Hats off to the staff, students and Principal for their prompt response.

Boarders from the upper school who were slated to sit external examinations the following week had to return to school. To facilitate the completion of the school year, short-term plans were put in place for all other students and the remainder of the academic year.



In an effort to assist with rebuilding the structure, WOGA and the school launched several campaigns and events.

WOGA continues to accept donations through our GofundMe:

www.gofundme.com

(Westwood H. S. Jamaica, Rebuilding)

Rebuilding is expected to start in early 2018. Pray with us as we move forward as a stronger unit.

**Westwood High School - 135 Years:
Celebrating the Journey to Greatness.**

*Rickaye Brown ~ President Jamaica,
Jenniffer A. Brown ~ President New York,
Donna Nicholson ~ President South Florida*



Sponsors

To our sponsors & donors, from the depths of our hearts, We say – THANK YOU.

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- The New Blue Mountain Restaurant & Lounge
- The Palace Amusement Company (1921) Limited
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- UJAA
- White Lotus Bridal Boutique
- Wisynco Jamaica
- Zedoj Events

Featured Old Girl

- *Dr. Kimberlie Bailey-Colley* -



Truly living by prayer and by work. Ora Et Labore!

Daughter of the small district of Warsop in Southern Trelawny, she managed to let her light shine and inspire many of the community members to do the same.

Though raised in a large nuclear family with limited resources she displayed academic excellence from an early age while attending the Warsop Methodist Basic School and Warsop All Age School. Her hard work landed her a government scholarship to attend the beautiful “Tribute To The Sun” sitting on a hilltop, the Westwood High School.

The social, physical and academic structure of Westwood certainly nurtured the seed that God had already planted within her; and it’s no surprise that she continued to excel there.

She obtained 9 distinctions in her CSEC Exams in 2007 and was noted to be an active participant in the schools extracurricular

activities hence she was named the PATHE top achiever in Trelawny that year.

Blessings continued to flow for this humble, focused and conscientious young lady as she was given the opportunity to study the Preliminary Sciences course at the Montego Bay Community college.

She was indeed successful and this opened the door to her dreams of becoming a medical doctor as she went on to read for her medical degree at the University of the West Indies. Her entire course was fully funded by the Hugh Shearer Foundation and she graduated in October 2013 as one of the youngest medical doctors that year. She currently holds the position of a Medical



Officer 1 in primary care, employed to the South East Regional Health Authority. She is also married with one child.

Kimberlie attributes her achievements thus far to a combination of her faith in God to whom she prays earnestly and her personal efforts and hardwork to reach her goals. In essence, she lives by the motto of her Alma Mater, Ora et labore (By prayer and by work).

She expresses heartfelt gratitude to her parents, siblings and many others who provided and continues to provide her with support and encouragement.

She firmly believes that her years at Westwood were pivotal to her success as that is where she learned and strengthened her relationship with God. She had amazing teachers and mentors there such as the Late Mrs Eileen Piggott (Then principal), Miss Winsome Lawson, Miss Karen Francis, Mr. Lascelles Gabbidon who along with many others taught her not only subject areas but also the importance of spirituality, discipline, humility, integrity and leadership.

Another name which always comes up whenever Kimberlie discusses her journey is that of Professor Denise Eldemire-Shearer and the Hugh Shearer foundation who ensured that she Kimberlie, completed medical school without having to worry about expenses.

Kimberlie continues to be guided daily by all the life lessons she has received thus far and certainly by the Westwood motto.

Ora et labore “By Prayer and by work”.

Memorabilia

As a part of our fundraising efforts we have the following items for sale.



\$1000.00 JMD



\$ 300.00 JMD



\$ 2500.00 JMD

Sowing Seeds Of Inspiration

- New York Chapter Tea Party -

More than 100 people showed up at Grace United Methodist Church in Valley Stream, New York, on April 8 for WogaNY's first fundraising event of 2017. This affair was a Tea Party, Fashion Show and Silent Auction.

All members of the planning committee, Jennifer Brown, Patrice Dacosta, Audrey Forde, Sonia Khan and Shaunese Williams worked tirelessly to ensure that the event would be a success.



Securing a venue that was appropriate to host the event was a top priority, and fellow alum and WogaNY Financial Officer, Yvonne Basnight, stepped up to the plate. She not only helped to secure the venue, but also worked endless hours at the event, to ensure the space was aesthetically pleasing and our guests were satisfied. The planning team went into full swing securing donations, promoting the event and selling tickets. Tickets were made available on www.eventbrite.com, and printed tickets were also available.

When it came to our fearless leader,

no stones were left unturned. Jennifer urged us to prospect our friends, families, coworkers, church families, neighbors and even strangers. Audrey Forde secured a spot on a prominent Caribbean radio show in New York to help promote our event while Jennifer secured a Press Release for the chapter and event. Our PR rep, Natoya Dent continuously pushed the event on the many social media platforms and on the association's website. Event posters were erected in as many Caribbean businesses as possible to drive marketing. In addition, regular members of WogaNY played a vital role in the success of the event, through donations, ticket sales or just jumping in and wearing different hats to be of service.



On a beautiful spring day, guests arrived dressed to impress. Some sported elaborate hats while others wore fascinators.



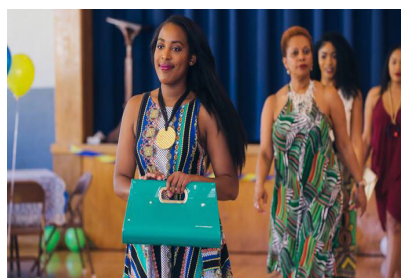
In attendance was Karlene Largie, our Board Member Liaison from UJAA (Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations, USA Inc). The attendees would later select winners for the best fascinator and best hat.



Guests were serenaded by the beautiful voice of Gabrielle Lee, a jazz singer who has performed with Harry Belafonte, among others. DeeJay MeganC rocked the house with a great selection of music for the guests, and a special soundtrack for the fashion show.



Stoosh Images, an image consulting company owned by Westwood alum Patrice Dacosta, hosted the fashion show portion of the event. The models included daughters and friends of WogaNY members. They all hit the runway like true professionals, keeping heads turning as people gasped in amazement at the fashions. Later, Ms. Dacosta took a few moments to share with the audience some tips on how to dress regardless of your size and the importance of one's image.



While guests were being entertained, they were also feasting on a wide array of foods. The showpiece was the much talked about teapot cake, which portrayed many elements of Westwood, including its school uniform and signature pin. It was certainly the talk of the show. Who wanted to cut into that masterpiece that accurately represented not only the school, but also the spirit of the event? Nothing was left off the menu – cod fish cakes, beef patties, vegan sandwiches, escovitch fish sandwiches, delicate cucumber sandwiches, and a variety of cakes, including delicious carrot cake. We stayed true to our culture with drinks such as sorrel and ginger beer. Keeping in mind that this was a tea party, we also had a vast array of hot and iced teas to suit every palate.



The silent auction, which included designer handbags, handmade jewelry, a photo studio sitting, travel luggage, fascinators and so much more, added some intrigue to the event. Both displays in the silent auction and Stoosh Images were immensely eye-catching and gave the feeling that guests were shopping in a high-end store!

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Fond Memories

- *Uniform Notes* -

What did
the early
Westwood
girl look
like?



It's no wonder Gwen Smith was scandalized when, three years before, the new games teacher "... came into the Assembly Hall wearing a gym tunic way above her knees. Gwen wrote that she gasped for "At Westwood at that time it was completely out of place and quite shocking..."

Beryl Sutherland's statement adds a tie to the classroom uniform and a jippi jappa hat.

Leila Whiteman (1919) says that there was a navy blue skirt and white blouse for school, a tunic for games and white dress for church. Her younger sister, Etta describes "white blouse and tie, pleated blue skirt and white dress"

Ruby Mornan informs us that there were not Westwood uniforms in 1909. But "though we did not have uniform dress, we had uniform behavior"

In the early forties under the leadership of A.K. Lopez, the girls wore coloured dresses on weekends.

From Mary Carnegie (Kelly) we infer that uniform dress did exist in 1918. She recalls wearing a uniform, and a white dress in the afternoons and on Sundays.

Ruby Whiteman (1940) noted that this was for campus wear only. "For classes during the day we wore pleated serge navy skirts and white blouses and a beautiful navy and gold tie and the Westwood pin... For games and PE, we wore a gym tunic and white crepe-soled shoes. For church we wore white dresses and our famous jippi jappa hats with our woven navy and gold crested headbands."

Trixie Grant (Somerville) (1927) specifies "navy tunics and white blouses. White dresses for evening and church wear".

Kathleen Francis (1924) tells us of a white 'middy' blouse and navy blue skirt with the same white dresses for dress and afternoon wear.

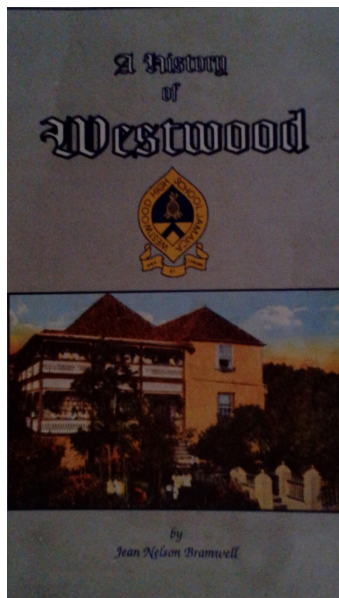
No games uniform was mentioned until 1930 when Mavis Hearne gives details "... also a navy tunic and white blouse for games". Clearly no shorts were worn!



The fifties saw white blouses and tunics for school hours. There was no tie; instead we wore a beautiful school pin with our crest and motto: Ora et Labore - "by prayer and by work" ... The tunics were four-gored... The tunics were worn at least one and a half inches below the knee. Navy blue socks of ankle length and 'sensible' black shoes completed the day uniform. On weekday evenings and Sundays white dresses complete with school pin and office pins were worn with white socks and black shoes. On Friday and Saturday evenings only, girls wore simple coloured dresses. The privilege was denied if you had three or more order marks. Prefects were allowed to wear coloured dresses in the week.

For church and traveling to an from school on public transport the tunic and jippi jappa hat with crested blue and gold headband were proudly worn.

To preclude individualism regulation shoes were prescribed for the school in 1961.



- Excerpt taken from 'A History of Westwood' by Jean Nelson Bramwell [1994] who attended Westwood in the 60s and later became a WOGA President.

- Sketch done by: Jennifer Lai

- 'Fond Memories of Westwood' from the 130th anniversary Gleaner supplement (2012) with one Mavis Wint in uniform.

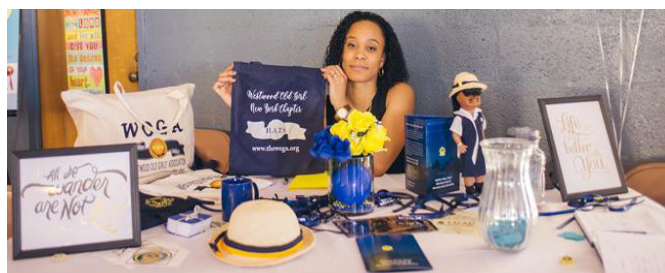
~ Article & Pictures Submitted By: Jennifer Lai

The New York Chapter Tea Party

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It is important to note that all items in the silent auction were donated by members, friends and the business community.

Mistresses of Ceremony for the evening were alum Vinnette Williams and our very own Jenniffer Brown, who both stepped in at a minute's notice like the true professionals they are. Throughout the afternoon, they continuously drove guests to enter bids at the silent auction tables and to equally support the Stoosh Images fashion sales while reminding our guests that the event was a fundraiser for our beloved alma mater, Westwood High School. And in fine Westwood style, our guests were treated to a H.A.T.S. WogaNY logo goodie bag that included such items as a logo pen and a variety of tea partiesque lollipops shaped like hats, teacups and flowers.



The Tea Party, Fashion Show and Silent Auction was a lot of fun, but the main reason for hosting this fundraising event was to support our alma mater, Westwood High School, and to fulfill our mission as a chapter. We are confident that we accomplished our goals and eagerly look forward to the next fundraiser on October 7th. We look to recruit more members, raising awareness within our communities about WOGA, and raising money to help the institution that has helped shape us.

~ Shaunese Williams, WogaNY Events Coordinator

Miss Jamaica Festival Queen - Naresha Jackson -



Congrats to our own Naresha Jackson.

She was crowned Miss St Ann for the 2017 JCDC Parish Festival Queen competition. After the staging of the national festival queen competition on August 1st 2017 Naresha walked away with the 1st runner up spot to the National Queen.

Naresha, we are truly proud of your performance and look forward to the great work you will be doing during your tenure.

HATS off !!



Congratulations also to our own Oliva Shaw, who represented St James in the competition as well.

HATS off to you too!!



Mentorship Programme

Mentors welcome to the Westwood High Mentorship '2017-2018' Programme!

A special thanks to you for volunteering to join this programme. We encourage all to consider becoming a mentor for next year's program.

The programme is about helping to develop our young sisters. In addition, it focuses on assisting them with career and personal decisions as well as being a friend/big sister to your mentee.

Why should you become a mentor?
Apart from the great feeling/satisfaction of helping someone with the knowledge you

wish you knew at that age. It is a great way of giving back to your Alma Mater and also keeping up with Westwood and what has changed / remained over the years.

The programme was officially launch on October 21, 2017 in the school's auditorium.

It was an excellent opportunity for old girls to visit the school and to connect with the current students. Approximately 30 old girls attended the event to support our new mentees. Our special guest speaker was Kimberlie Bailey-Colley from the class of 2007. She shared with us a powerful message on the importance of perseverance.



Sister Sister



Jamaica Chapter Tea Party - Highlights -

“Miss, can we do this again next year?”

“Miss, is it time to set the tables?”

“OK girls, join the line, it’s now your time to be served!”

“Miss, I bought a dress specifically for this occasion, may I go to change into it now?”



She figured that the venue would have been perfect and expected many WOGA members to attend thinking they would have been curious to return to school to view the remnants of our kitchen and dining room after the fire.

These were the popular buzz phrases at the 2017 WOGA Tea Party which was held on the grounds of the school. Many old girls persons were sceptic as they suggested that the event should be held at a hotel. However, our President stood her ground.

The bus departed Kingston late on the morning of Saturday, but when we arrived at school there was already a buzz of activity. The students had started to wash the rented crockery, cutlery and glasses and we immediately received their assistance to lay out the auditorium with tables and chairs. But it was the dressing of the tables and chairs which generated much attentiveness and excitement as the ladies were keen to help and to learn.



It was soon time for the guests to arrive; they included Mr. Keith Rowe, Chairman and other members of the Board of Directors, Custos Muschette, old girls from the Hampton High School in St. Elizabeth, students York Castle High School and Brown's Town Community College and even a representative from the Calabar Old Boys Association (COBA).



Special thanks to our sponsors Digicel Foundation, Dunn's Electrical, T Geddes Grant, Petrojam, Nestle Jamaica, Wisynco, Kirk Distributors, Amalgamated Distributors, Seaboard Freight and Shipping Jamaica Limited, National Baking Company, National Housing Trust, Duncan's Bakery and Palace Amusement Company.

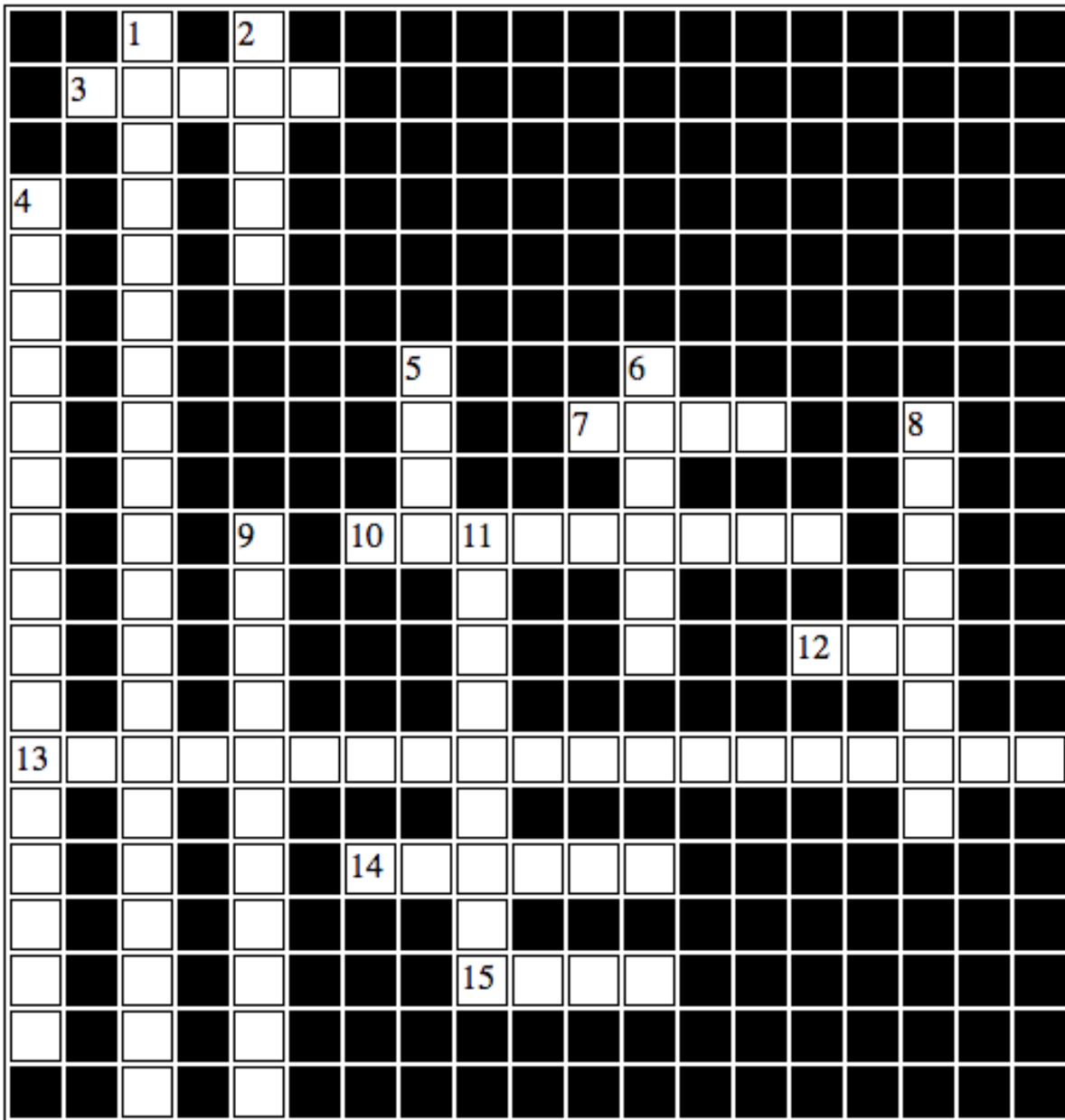


The function started with a bang, under the guidance of Compere Miss Shanice Brown. The audience was entertained in song, dance and a fashion show by the students, teachers and representatives from WOGA. There were many prizes and surprises.

So look out, the 2018 experience will be even bigger and better. So, see you there!



Westwood Facts



ACROSS

3. current Principal first name
7. last name of the founder of Westwood
10. first name of the Baptist Missionary Society former secretary who helped raise money from England to found Westwood
12. _ et Labore
13. Westwoodite currently a member of the JA Senate
14. last name of the first Jamaican Principal
15. mentorship programme was launched in two thousand _

DOWN

1. Westwoodite currently a member of JA Parliament
2. US state with a school by the name of Westwood High
4. one of the prizes that the Westwood team won for TVJ's Schools Challenge Quiz 2017
5. ranking Westwood receive in the all-island ranking of secondary schools, based on the performance of 5th forms in the CSEC exams
6. first name of Reverend Henderson, Co-founder of Westwood
8. one of the previous school names ' _ Girls School'
9. material school hat made from
11. style architecture used for the first buildings

School Song

Oh, Westwood sitting there upon a hill top
As if you are a tribute to the sun
Oh Alma Mater you have helped to build up
The careers of a thousand little ones

Chorus:

Westwood! Westwood!
You have helped to develop our attitude
Alma Mater, You have our gratitude.

The discipline we practice here at Westwood
Will stay with us as onward we will strive
It teaches us to live as sisters all should
Ora et Labore all our lives.

Chorus:

Westwood! Westwood!
You have helped to develop our attitude
Alma Mater, You have our gratitude.
Westwood! Westwood!
You have helped to develop our attitude

Alma Mater, You have our gratitude.
You have our gratitude.



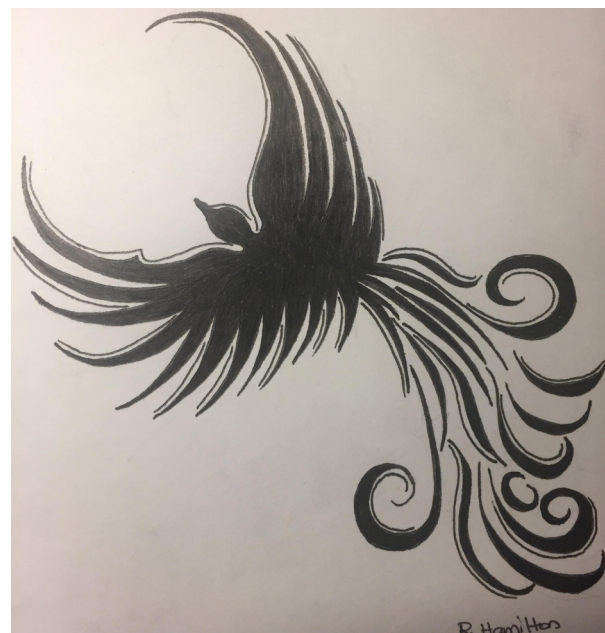
- Westwood The Phoenix -

*Empress of the hills
Standing in the light of the sun
Boldly from its inception standing up for all to belong.
Under the Jippy Jappa hats, she groomed her ladies
with discipline, resilience, pride,
strength and sisterhood.
Engraving in their hearts Ora and Labore forever.*

*Perched on the top overlooking it all.
Westwood has dominated in areas of academia,
environmental protection, grace and etiquette.
While her children slept in the still of the night, the
flames came dancing and they had to take flight.
Safely they were protected by those who were brave.
Old Westwood lost apart of her limbs.
Burnt down to ashes the kitchen and
the dining room went.*

*But Westwood did not lose her beauty
or her excellence.
Just like a Phoenix she will rise gloriously from the
ashes to start a new long life.
One that will strengthen the generation coming with
the same core values as those who went before.
Preparing them for greatness and fresh beginnings.*

- Drawings by: Roxanne Hamilton
- Poem by: Shaunese Williams



Featured Old Girl

- Shernette Crichton -

Shernette Crichton is the Director of Resort Operations and former Hotel Manager and Director of Training and Staff Development at Half Moon. Her motto is “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13.

Her educational journey started at the West Wood High School for girls in Stewart Town Trelawny. She holds a Master’s Degree in Organizational Behaviour from the University of London, a Bachelors Degree (hons.) in Hospitality Management from the Florida International University School of Hospitality Management where she received honours and memberships into the following Honour Societies: Phi Kappa Phi-Academic Honour Society, Delta Delta Phi- hospitality Honour Society and the Golden Key National Honour Society. She is also a past student of the Montego Bay Community College and College of Arts, Science and Technology where she was valedictorian for the class of 1990 and received the Derrick Dunn Cup for Academics and Community Service.

She has tremendous experience in the field of Hospitality having worked with Half Moon for over 20 years and as a Training Officer with the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) where she coordinated, facilitated and evaluated management development programmes for the accommodation and food and beverage sectors in tourism. In February 2008, she received her professional certification from the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute as a Certified Hospitality Educator.



Shernette Crichton administers leadership, hospitality and motivational training, some of which is gleaned from Biblical principles at all levels.

She currently sits on the Board of Advisors for the College’s Hospitality, Tourism & Creative Studies Department and has also participated in developing the hospitality curriculum for Community Colleges in Jamaica offering Tourism and Hospitality Management. She is a member of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association and sits on the Membership and Recognition Committee. She is the past chairman of the Management Advisory Committee for Human Employment and Resource Training Agency HEART Falmouth Training Facility.

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Featured Old Girl

- *Jacquel Tucker* -

Jacquel Tucker (formerly Edwards) was born in Jamaica in the rural community of Higgins Land, St. Ann. She is the youngest of eight children by her dad Jeremiah Edwards who was a Pastor and her mom Lydia Edwards who was a Church Youth Director and the Chairman of the local all age school in Higgins Land.

The family struggled with poverty and they lived in a tiny three bedroom home where Jacquel shared a room with three of her sisters and a niece and nephew.

At the tender age of ten years old, Jacquel started attending Westwood High School where her sister Chandlyn was already a student. She boarded on campus with her sister and was very shy and quiet. She was not from a popular area in Jamaica and she did not have the cool clothes and shoes that many of the other girls had. There was rarely any new school uniforms, new shoes or backpack at the start of the school year. Her parents could barely afford the school fee for her and her sister to attend the school but God made it possible.

Jacquel excelled in her latter years as Westwood taught her to become a lady. She was a top academic student – usually first or second in her class, a dancer and a choreographer, a cheerleader and an athlete who did track and field and played on the school's Netball Team. She was also active in several student clubs such as the Key Club and UNESCO. She even wrote short love stories that circulated throughout the school. Many thought she would become a writer.



After she graduated from Westwood, Jacquel attended Brown's Town Community College for a year and was then awarded a full academic C.A.S.S scholarship to the University of Maine in the USA. She studied Hotel and Restaurant Management & Tourism. This opportunity changed the course of her life.

Jacquel's experience in the hospitality industry spans over 25 years. She has worked for Tourism Action Plan/The Jamaica Tourist Board and then worked her way up in the hotel industry in the USA. Her career started at the front desk and she was quickly promoted to a Reservationist, a Sales Coordinator, a Sales Manager to finally a Director of Sales & Marketing.

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Great Gatsby Flourish Edition

- New York Chapter Gala -



Saturday, October 7, 2017, was a delightful evening for Westwood alumnae, their families and friends who came from all over the tri-state area, Florida and Jamaica to attend WOGA New York's Great Gatsby fundraiser.

The event, which was held at Bay Ridge Manor in Brooklyn, began with a cocktail hour that included an open bar and a choice of appetizers. We mixed and mingled, greeting old friends while meeting new ones. Some of us saw alumnae we hadn't seen since graduating from Westwood High School.

The program officially started when the president welcomed our attendees, making special mention of the president of WOGA Jamaica, Rickaye Brown, and the treasurer of WOGA South Florida, Cheryl Spence. She thanked the project team for the splendid production – and what a production it was!

Shamere McKenzie deserves special recognition for bringing elegance to the space with her style of decorating.

Alumna Carol Forrester-Hoyte led us in prayer before we stood at attention for the playing of the U.S. national anthem, followed by the Jamaican national anthem "*Jamaica, Land We Love*". Finally, we were treated to a resounding rendition of the school song, "*Oh Westwood*," recorded by alumna Keona Bailey.

The president then introduced Janice Julian, our emcee for the evening and what a treat she was. Janice masterfully walked us through the various segments of the fundraiser, encouraging guests to support the Silent Auction throughout the evening. We were treated to a very classy performance by jazz singer Gabrielle Lee, who entertained us while we dined on delicious food. Alumna Nicky Blaze thrilled everyone with her fiery, energetic performance that could have continued until the next morning. Finally, Jhoey, our youngest performer and the daughter of an alumna, closed out our dinner entertainment with three songs.

It was time for Lesleyann Samuel, president of the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations USA, Inc. (UJAA), to deliver the keynote speech. Spellbinding. Fascinating. Riveting. Wonderful. Inspiring. These are some of the words I heard used to describe Lesleyann's speech. Amplifying the evening's theme, Flourish, she spoke of ways Westwood old girls can make an impact on current students, give back to our communities, get involved, and become better citizens. How exhilarating it was to sit in the audience and be transfixed by a woman of her caliber, speaking to an old girls



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alumnae association, for the benefit of girls in a girls' boarding school. We were in awe.

Overall, it was a truly successful evening. The planning team reveled in our success as we all danced the night away.

A very special thank you to all our members, alumnae, friends, colleagues and family who attended or supported our event. Heartfelt thanks to our sponsors: Caribbean Food Delights, LDI Color Toolbox, Perry Consulting, Gromm Tax Services, Inc., and Cox Padmore Skolnik & Shakarchy, LLP for their gracious support. We are also grateful to all our performers, our emcee, speaker, photographer and disc jockey for helping to make our fundraising event a successful and memorable one.



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Planning Team L-R: Natoya, Skeeta, Stacy, Sonia, Shaunese, Jenniffer & Shamere.



Featured Old Girl - Shernette Crichton -



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She was also past Chairman of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Assoc./Kenilworth HEART Academy Villa Service advisory committee and has worked with the Human Employment and Resource Training Agency(HEART) Jamaica's National Training Agency, in the initial stages of developing their curriculum for hospitality.

She served as a Board of Management for the Montego Bay Community College for 9 years and has also served as Board Chairman of Teamwork Learning Centre which facilitates the training of young adults from volatile communities in honing skills in housekeeping, food & beverage and culinary for the hospitality industry.

Shernette Crichton is the author of the book *Managing Guest Encounters* a student's and employee's handbook to a successful start in the field of Hospitality.

Her tenure at Half Moon began in 1990 as a trainee manager. She soon moved up the ranks to assistant manager, sales then to assistant manager, special projects spearheading Half Moon's environmental and pillars of excellence training programmes.

In 1998, she moved to the Tourism Product Development Company where she spent a year as the agency's training officer. In 1999 she returned to Half Moon to assume the post of Director of Training and Education. In her capacity as the resort's training director, Mrs. Crichton led the training and development of over 800 employees including developing standard operating procedures and service standards for the resort. She promoted to Hotel Manager in March 2007. Mrs. Crichton is also the first female to hold this position at this 61 year old resort.



2015 – Promoted to director of Resort Operations; Interim General Manager for 3 months.

As the Director of Resort operations she is responsible for assisting the General Manager in the day to day operations of the resort and is fully responsible for the resort in the absence of the General Manager. She acts as a guardian of Half Moon’s mission, vision, values, the honour code and prescribed standards in the execution of the seamless operation of all aspects of the Half Moon experience for both internal and external customers.

She is chairman of the Half Moon Foundation which seeks to identify and support initiatives that make meaningful and sustainable impact on the lives of Jamaicans through investments in education, community service and environmental protection and preservation.

She is married to Donat Crichton Jr. Businessman and has three boys Josef 21, Jordan 19 and Joshua 6. She enjoys cooking and playing dominoes with her family.



Memorabilia

As a part of our fundraising efforts we have the following items for sale.



\$ 2500.00 JMD



\$3500.00 JMD



\$ 1000.00 JMD

RetroMania Second Edition

- Jamaica Chapter Party -

RetroMania 2017, 2nd Edition was held at Waterfalls Liguanea, St Andrew on November 25, 2017.

DJ Craig Ross of Meritone and Kool FM and DJ Krazy Kris of Kool FM brought the house down with music of yesteryear...hits from the 70s, 80s, and 90s into the 2000s. Patrons had a blast as they reminisce on respective eras of music.

There was manish water and a variety of drinks on sale. We had great prizes, giveaways and spot prizes...

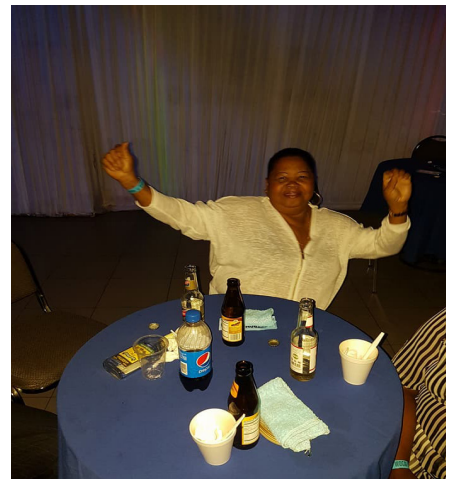
Gate prizes included: Day pass for 2

courtesy of Sandals Resort and a weekend for 2 courtesy of Hylton Resort and Spa, Montego Bay.

Thanks to our sponsors Clinicare Pharmacy, Montego Bay and Halfmoon Hotel Rosehall, Montego Bay.

The event was an improvement to the previous staging according to persons who attended both parties. Indeed, it was a great way to spend a fun filled Friday.

Looking forward to bigger and better support for RetroMania - 3rd Edition...
See you there!!



Frenemy - Benefit Play -

On Sunday, August 14, 2017 WOGA was one of the benefactors of the Oliver Samuels play FRENEMY. The play was a historic reunion (after 15 years) of Oliver Samuels and his long time stage partner Volier "Maffy" Johnson.



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This event was held at the Jamaican Shopping Club Theatre (formerly known as The Green Gables). The support for this event was tremendous. 150 tickets were initially allocated to WOGA and all tickets were distributed. Additional tickets had to be issued WOGA as a result of the overwhelming support.

Thanks to all the Old Girls who supported and turned out in their numbers.

Looking forward to the support for our next benefit performance.

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Featured Old Girl - *Jacquel Tucker* -



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She has been a successful Hotel Sales Leader for over 15 years working in major cities such as Newark, New York & Buckhead Atlanta and working for major brands such as Hilton, Starwood and Wyndham.

In 2015, while still working as a Director of Sales at the Doubletree By Hilton Atlanta Buckhead, God gave her the vision to start her non-profit The Jamaica Project USA with her husband Shun Tucker. She currently works with her missions team to transform rural communities and schools in Jamaica by providing basic necessities and educational resources for rural schools including Westwood.

Jacquel has also designed a line of *Westwood Girls Rock!* shirts in solidarity of the strong sisterhood that Westwood girls share.

The shirts can be purchased at www.coolstylz.com and at the CoolStylz Jamaica store (located at 20 Duke Street in Falmouth Trelawny) and \$5 from each shirt goes to westwood.

At the WOGA tea party in June 2017, Jacquel donated \$125,000 Jamaican dollars to Westwood which included donations from the sale of the shirts.



In October 2016, Hilton Hotels sponsored one of Jacquel's community projects which was to provide a proper library and a new computer lab for the Higgins Land Primary and Junior High School. This year she will be launching The Jamaica Project USA "We Care" initiative focusing on giving back to service industry workers and the "Just One" education initiative.

In November 2016, Jacquel walked away from a very successful and lucrative



career in the Hotel Industry and started her own company, Global Hospitality Expert Solutions. Her company provides consulting, sales task force and sales training solutions for the hospitality and tourism industry. She has also created a culture of giving back at GHES. The company is focusing on giving back to students in the hospitality industry by providing them with educational resources, facilitating more contact with our hotel leaders and helping to increase internship opportunities.

Jacquel is in the process of penning her first children's book which chronicles her life growing up as a small child and how she transitioned from a poor rural country girl in Jamaica to having her non-profit and owning her own successful company in the USA. Her goal is to show young students that with God, anything is possible so dream big and live a purposeful life! Her book will be released in the Summer 2018.



Memorabilia

As a part of our fundraising efforts we have the following items for sale.



\$ 2700.00 JMD



\$ 1200.00 JMD



\$3000.00 JMD



Westwood Old Girls
Association

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