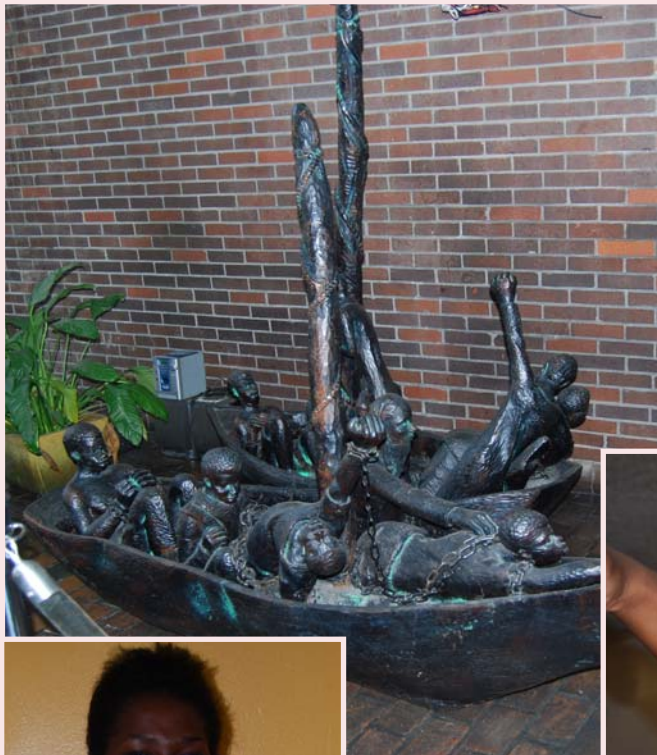


AFRICA IN AMERICA



Tamika Phill celebrates Perpetual Motherhood.



Two Sundays in Brooklyn

On Sunday 26 April, Chief Lookman Sulaimon and I showed up in Brooklyn in the Restoration Hall for a panel discussion and reception on reconciliation of community leaders. This was

followed 2 weeks later by an afternoon of music, song and poetry.

Both events were hosted by the Global Caribbean Representation, which is led by Brother Austin Tuitt, a Caribbean performer (aka Mighty Skylark) and its founder (his story is given in MJoTA vol3no6p141). The second event is described by Mr Sulaimon (MJoTA vol3no6p142-3).

The first Sunday events were held in a basement room in Restoration Hall. The foyer of the hall has a display of green plants and an iron representation of

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Reception at Restoration Hall. Above left, senior academic at Medgar Evers University; above, Brother Tuitt explains the Global Caribbean Representation and the pillars recognition, respect, reconciliation and rally; left, 2 of the 4 panelists; below left, African communities organizer Spencer Chiimbwe; below, a candidate in the upcoming elections for President of Haiti.



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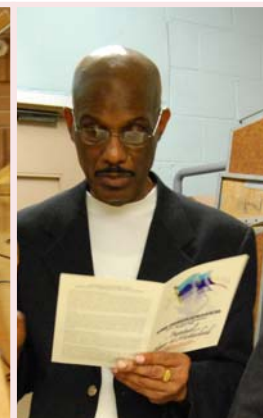


Lower left, Mrs Lansana speaks with African intellectual; lower right, the entrance to the Mahalia Jackson Campus; bottom left, Brother Tuitt escorts Elder Adlin Boyd-Douglas; bottom right, singers Phyllis Phill-Martin and Esther Sebro.

Members of the United African Congress (UAC) plus, far left, Chief Lookman Sulaimon, fourth from left, Dr Gaston Valcin (from Haiti), the UAC president Sidique Wai (liaison between the African community and New York City police, from Sierra Leone), Dr Mohammed Nurhusein (from Ethiopia), Mrs Zainab Wai-Lansana (executive director of Amuloma Foundation fighting maternal mortality in Sierra Leone), the UAC Executive Director Spencer Chiimbwe (from Zambia).



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a slave ship which is shown next to Ms Tamika Phill dancing in celebration of Perpetual Motherhood, dancing in defiance of oppression.

The discussion was spirited. Brother Tuitt had invited 4 members of the Caribbean and African community to discuss reconciliation, which is needed if we are all going to work together.

Two months later, a one-on-one discussion with Brother Tuitt led to the realization that the flag flies for all MJOTA stands for.

The flag itself was raised in the Mahalia Jackson School in another part of Brooklyn on 04 May by international thoracic surgeon, Julius W Garvey MD, whose father was Marcus Garvey and whose mother Amy Garvey was a prolific journalist.

The program, *Perpetual Honor to Motherhood*, hosted by the Global Caribbean Representation, was fabulous, singers, intellectuals, and, oh my, the very best steel drum performance I have ever heard. I was busy taking photographs when the steel drum player was starting, and my mouth dropped open and my knees gave way. Clean, pure rhythm, how can anything this side of heaven sound so sweet.

Mr Locksley Dyce, the MC came out afterwards and said "you can say you have heard Wynton Marsalis (I have, I heard him live with the Philadelphia Orchestra, in Philadelphia), Itzhak Perlman (no, but I heard Andres Segovia play in Philadelphia), YoYo Ma (no, but I heard Sharon Isbin play in Philadelphia), and now you can say you have heard Michael." I have heard him, and I know my days are improved.

Nothing like being put firmly in the company of angels and heavenly hosts to make an evening glide along smoothly. After the steel drums, Brother Austin introduced to us the quintessential mother, Elder Adlin Boyd-Douglas, an elegant, clear-eyed, well-spoken, straight-backed lady of 95.

When I spoke with Elder Boyd-Douglas later, I told her she had to be lying about her age, she looks

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about 60. She laughed, and told me she was from Jamaica, and has been in the United States 50 years. She worked as a dress designer, definitely she retains her eye for fashion, she was dressed immaculately in deep turquoise satin. She said that at diversity events she carries 4 flags, one is the Union Jack, which was her flag when she was in Jamaica, the Jamaican flag, the Panamanian flag and the United States flag. God bless her, and may she carry the Caribbean flag for decades to come!

At intermission I walked outside the school to photograph the outside and the neighborhood to put the occasion in context, and as I was pulling the red door open, pushing the door from the other side was

a most distinguished looking man who looked a very healthy 70. I told him he hadn't missed anything! He reminded me of my late father, when I came back inside, I understood why. My father was an English-educated consultant physician; so is the distinguished gentleman, who turned out to be Dr Julius W Garvey, the guest of honor who had been invited to raise the flag for all who are oppressed as a rallying point and understanding that when we rise a flag together, we stand together and work together for a better future.

And Dr Garvey raised the flag, with everyone standing behind him. What a pair of Sundays.

By MJoTA Publisher

