Harambe is an African word which means “working together.” It is also the foundation’s slogan and name of one of Mrs. Rita Marley’s most popular tunes. Available through our website quarterly, this newsletter will be a vital vehicle to inform you of our foundation’s endeavors, events and accomplishments; importantly, we eagerly anticipate “working together” with you, through your contributions and feedback. So with One Love we could nurture Harambe into a constructive newsletter.

RITA MARLEY GETS LIVING LEGEND AWARD

MRS. RITA MARLEY RECEIVES AIMS LIVING LEGEND AWARD IN MALAWI

(Lilongwe, Malawi)- Mrs. Rita Marley, singer, Pan Africanist and wife of reggae legend Bob Marley received the African International Media Summit (AIMS) Living Legends Award with President of Malawi, Her Excellency Joyce Banda in Malawi over the weekend. The African Communications Agency (ACA) hosted AIMS for the 7th year from November 17th to 18th 2012 at the Presidents International Conference Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi. This year’s theme was I AM AFRICAN, and Mrs. Marley got applause from the audience when she started her acceptance speech with the African Union mantra “I am African, I am the African Union”.

The two day African Union endorsed event gathered media professionals, entrepreneurs, government officials, the Malawi Rastafari community individuals, organizations and the from Africa and the Diaspora for a significant discussion about re-branding the image of Africa. Both local and major media stakeholders such as CNN, Reuters and Associated Press (AP) along with leading journalists, participated in the annual conference; discussing their roles and responsibilities in promoting a positive image of the Continent. The ACA sponsored Summit also received recognition and support from the Government of Malawi and the Diaspora Africa Forum (DAF).

Mrs. Marley, was reportedly honoured to receive the award and to be in the midst of so many likeminded people committed to promoting a positive

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image of Africa. In an interview with ACA, she quoted her husband’s song Africa Unite saying, “How good and how pleasant it would be to see the unification of all Africans”. She further said, “...when we Africans see ourselves in a positive light doing positive things it helps our sense of pride and unity...it is Africa’s time to shine.” Ambassador Erieka Bennett, founder of ACA said, “This was truly an honor and a treat for us all...we were inspired and blessed by the presence and warm words of both H.E. Band and Mrs. Marley.”

Marley was back on a plane to Ethiopia to continue work of the Bob Marley and Rita Marley Foundations after two short days in Malawi. This was her first visit to the beautiful Southeastern country. She smiled as she departed saying, “I will return.”

ACA was created in 1997 by Dr. Bamanga Tukur and H.E. Dr. Erieka Bennett and was the first African advertising partner of CNN in Africa. The AIMS conference was created in 2006 and held in Ghana, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa, as part of their ongoing effort to ensure that Africa is portrayed in a positive light throughout mainstream media. For more information please visit the website, www.ACAPUBLISHING.com/aims or call 233-302780218.

— Bob Marley

ODWIRA FESTIVAL IN ABURI & KONKONURU, GHANA

The Odwira Festival is celebrated by the people of Akropong-Akuapim in Aburi and Konkonuru Eastern Region of Ghana, West Africa. This year’s event on October 6 at the Aburi Botanical Gardens was quite grand. Royalty and dignitaries attended, including the President of Ghana, Hon. John Mahama, and several Chiefs and Queen mothers from communities near and far. The park was overflowing with people. The sounds of powerful, emphatic drumming filled the air. This year’s Odwira Festival was truly a splendid affair.

The following day Konkonuru village held its festivities. At both functions numerous contributions were made in aid of community projects. The Queen of Development for Konkonuru, Nana Afua Adobea 1 (Mrs. Rita Marley) made a substantial donation to assist with educational projects at the Konkonuru School.

The Akuapem Odwira festival was initiated by the 19th Okuapimhene of Akropong, Nana Addo Dankwa 1 (1811-1835) and was first celebrated in October 1826. Its significance is to celebrate their victory over the
invincible Ashanti army during the historic battle of Katamansu near Dodowa in 1826, and also to cleanse themselves and ask for protection from their gods.

Odwira Festival is a week long series of traditions and rituals performed to purify the town, the people and most importantly, the ancestral Stools of the Chiefs. It is also a festival to celebrate the harvest of "new Yams".

Six weeks prior to the occasion, some activities are forbidden and huge penalties or serious punishment is given to persons who disobey this ban. Some of these restrictions include no loud music, no drumming, no whistling after dark and most of all NO EATING OF YAMS.

Each day of the Odwira Festival has a special a purpose:

**Monday**

Men from the three royal families in the community clear the path to their ancestral burial grounds. This is the sacred cemetery or "Ammamprobi." That act is done to let the ancestors know they are invited to join in the Odwira festival.

**Tuesday**

In the morning, the men from the royal family return to the Ammamprobi to get the ancestors' permission to conduct the celebration. As they return, guarded by the "Executioners" or Abrafo (singular: Obrafo) chanting and firing guns, the entire community gathers along the streets to cheer these men. A message is given to the chief that the festival can be performed.

Restrictions on all activities are lifted and yams can now be eaten. This day is called the Splitting of the New Yam, and there's a lot of partying.

**Wednesday**

This is the day of mourning and fasting for the ancestors. Also, the day when those who died during the six week ban are buried. It is a solemn day.

**Thursday**

This is the day for Feasting. People exchange gifts and make present gifts to the chief and queen mother.
Friday
A day of Celebration. The Grand Durbar is held on this day. Dignitaries, chiefs, queen mothers and other persons celebrate with the main chief of Aburi and queen mother.

It is impressive and colourful. The chiefs and queen mothers wear their full traditional regalia. They are also adorned with tons of gold from head to toe.

There is drumming, singing, dancing. Yes, a magnificent celebration through the streets. Each chief and queen mother is carried in a palanquin (a boat like chair) by his or her contingent of attendants high above the crowd.

The paramount chief and queen mother receive homage from all the sub chiefs, queen mothers and other dignitaries. The main chief delivers his speech, and the grand celebration continues into the night.

Saturday and Sunday
The "Krontihene" of Akuapem holds a special durbar on Sunday as part of the Odwira Festival.

Build The Dam

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is a project initiated by the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia to help eradicate poverty from Ethiopia with a positive impact on neighboring African countries. The Marley Family and Foundations support efforts in Ethiopia and worldwide to help eradicate poverty and promote self determination in order to make the world a better place for future generations.

Nana Rita Marley was warmly welcomed by the GERD Directorate for Public Outreach where she was recognized as the first international personality to step forward to assist Ethiopia build the Dam. Nana Rita Marley is very popular and loved by the Ethiopian people for her generosity and commitment and love for the people of Ethiopia. They expressed their thanks and appreciation for her continued support, and look forward to a special year long campaign to raise awareness and funds for the Dam. Below, are excerpts from Prime Minister Meles Zenawi’s speech at the inauguration of the Millennium Dam Project, also known as the Grand Ethiopia Renaissance Dam.

“The Millennium Dam... is the largest dam we could build at any point along the Nile, or indeed any other river. More importantly, the project takes the pride of place, representing an incomparable addition to our national plan for expanding power production. It will not only raise our own power-generating capacity and meet our domestic needs, it will also allow us to export to neighbouring countries and mobilize the resources so necessary for the realization of objectives for our rapid development endeavors—efforts which are already yielding promising results.
“The plan allows for the generation of six to eight thousand MW in the coming five years. Of this total, the Millennium Dam alone will have the capacity to produce 5,250 MW to assist in meeting our aims. After completion, the Dam is expected to hold 67 billion cubic meters of water. The Millennium Dam will be the largest man-made lake in Ethiopia, and it will also, of course, provide for extensive opportunities for fisheries and cultivation which were previously non-existent.

“From every perspective, this project will play a major and decisive role in realizing the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan and the consequent advance towards the eradication of poverty. The potential impact is clear to everyone. Its importance is readily apparent when we see that this Dam alone will provide for between 65 and 87 percent of the entire power supply we expect to generate over the period of the plan. Equally, the benefits that will accrue from the Dam will by no means be restricted to Ethiopia. They will clearly extend to all neighboring states, and particularly to the downstream Nile basin countries, to Sudan and Egypt.

“The Dam will greatly reduce the problems of silt and sediment that consistently affect dams in Egypt and Sudan. This has been a particularly acute problem at Sudan’s Fosseiries dam which has been experienced reduction in output. When the Millennium Dam becomes operational, communities all along the riverbanks and surrounding areas, particularly in Sudan, will be permanently relieved from centuries of flooding. These countries will have the opportunity to obtain increased power supplies at competitive prices. The Millennium Dam will increase the amount of water resources available, reducing the wastage from evaporation which has been a serious problem in these countries. It will in fact ensure a steady year-round flow of the Nile. This, in turn, should have the potential to amicably resolve the differences which currently exist among riparian states over the issue of equitable utilization of the resource of the Nile water.

“We have, in fact, been forced to rely on our own savings alone to cover the expense. The estimated cost will be 3.3 billion Euros, or 78 billion birr. No matter how poor we are, in the Ethiopian traditions of resolve, the Ethiopian people will pay any sacrifice. I have no doubt they will, with one voice, say: ‘Build the Dam!’ Importantly, the Ethiopian people will also be able to contribute their share in bringing the construction of this historic Dam to completion. We are fully aware that in this struggle against poverty, many friends stand with us; our gratitude to our development partners is limitless.

“Before we mobilized our efforts to eradicate poverty, centuries of impoverishment curtailed our development and restricted us from exercising our right to use the resources of our own rivers. Now, thanks to the dedication of our peoples, we have safely put those times behind us. We, the peoples of Ethiopia, call upon all the peoples of the Nile Basin to turn over to a new page of cooperation and solidarity. As we in Ethiopia build this Millennium Dam with the aim of eradicating poverty, let it be known to all that it will also stand as an expression of our commitment to the benefit of all the countries of the Nile Basin. Thank You.”

— Contributed by Dr. Desta Meghoo
Royal Rita Reigns Supreme at European Reggae Festivals

Fans showed up in multitudes to witness the true Queen of Reggae, Mrs. Rita Marley, perform at reggae festivals in Italy. Her performance was perfect and fans were in awe. She was joined on stage by one of sons, Super Star Reggae Musician, Stephen Marley joined, for a memorable performance of her Grammy nominated hit "One Draw."

Mrs. Rita Marley

Massive crowd cheers the Queen

Mrs. Marley sings "Harambe"

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At the Garrance Festival in France Mrs. Rita Marley celebrated her sweet 16th earth-strong. Ten Thousand fans, supported by members of the I-three and Lloyds Parks Band, serenaded her with the "Happy Birthday" tune. Wow!!! It was a blast.

Event promoters and her entourage presented gifts of champagne, strawberry chocolate cake and huge bouquets of flowers. This will be an earth-strong celebration that thousands will forever remember!

Great African Leaders

Buffalo soldier troddin' through the land, wo-ho-ooh!
Said he wanna ran, then you wanna hand,
Troddin' through the land, yea-hea, yea-ea.
— Bob Marley
Said he was a buffalo soldier in the war for America;
Buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;
Driven from the mainland to the heart of the Caribbean.
—Bob Marley

_KWAME NKRUMAH:_ Ghana’s first President and first Prime Minister. He served as the country’s leader for 15 years (1951-1966). Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah led Ghana out of British colonial rule to independence in 1957. He was a staunch supporter of Pan-Africanism and a founder of the Organization of African Unity. Mr. Nkrumah went on to be named life president of both the nation and his political party, until the army and police in Ghana seized power in 1966. He found asylum in Guinea.

_PATRICE LUMUMBA:_ As leader of the Mouvement National Congolais (MNC), Mr. Lumumba helped the Congo win independence from Belgium in June 1960. He was the first legitimately elected leader of the Republic of Congo. Despite being Prime Minister, he was omitted from the official independence celebration programme held on June 30. However, Belgian King Baudouin was listed to deliver a speech. Baudouin boasted of developments under Belgian colonial rule. Baudouin referred to the “genius” of Leopald 11, his great grand uncle—a man notorious for committing the worst atrocities against the native Congolese. Leopald 11 garnered a fortune from ivory and rubber in the Congo. He forced the Congolese people to gather sap from rubber plants. Quotas had to be met. Failure resulted in the hands of women, men and children being severed off their bodies.

Despite being omitted from the program, Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba, did respond to King Baudouin’s speech. Mr. Lumumba stated, “For this independence of the Congo, even as it is celebrated today with Belgium, a friendly country with whom we deal as equal to equal, no Congolese worthy of the name will ever be able to forget that it was by fighting that it was won: a day-to-day fight, an ardent and idealistic fight, a fight in which we were spared neither privation nor suffering, and for which we gave our strength and our blood. We are proud of this struggle, of tears, of fire, and of blood, to the depths of our being. For it was a noble and just struggle, and indispensable to put an end to the humiliating slavery which was imposed upon us by force.”

Prime Minister Lumumba is best known for the impact on the Congo Crisis. His murder on January 17, 1961 caused major outcry in Africa. He was executed by a firing squad.

_MEDGAR EVERS:_ The first state field secretary of the National Alliance for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) and an African American Civil Rights Activist. He was born in Mississippi on July 2, 1925.

He served as a U.S. sergeant during World War II and was discharged honorably. As an activist and member of the NAACP, Mr. Evers coordinated voter-registration efforts, organized demonstrations, and planned economic boycotts of companies that practiced discrimination. He was instrumental in investigating crimes perpetrated against blacks.

Mr. Evers was murdered by a member of the White Citizens Council on June 12, 1963, shortly after President John F Kennedy delivered a speech expressing support for civil rights.
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**HAILE SELASSIE:** His birth name is Lij Tafari Makonnen. He was born in a mud hut in Ejersa Gora, Ethiopia on July 23, 1892. His father, Ras Makonnen, was the governor of Harar. The progressive Tafari symbolized the hopes and dreams of the youth in his country. In 1923 he led Ethiopia into the League of Nations. He traveled to Europe in 1924, becoming the first Ethiopian lead to travel overseas.

Tafari’s power increased and in 1930 he was crowned emperor of Ethiopia. He then named himself Haile Selassie (“Might of the Trinity”). Emperor Selassie worked hard to modernize his country through social, economic and educational reforms. He ruled until 1974. He was also Ethiopia’s last emperor.

**NELSON MANDELA** was born in Transkei, South Africa on July 18, 1918. As a member of the African National Congress (ANC), Nelson Mandela fought the racist apartheid government in an effort to obtain and secure equal rights for black South Africans. For this reason, Mr. Mandela was imprisoned for 25 years. Following his release from imprisonment, Mr. Nelson Mandela won general elections in South Africa in 1994 and was inaugurated as the country’s first black president.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:** His birth name is Michael King. He was an African-American Civil Rights activist and a Baptist minister.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. became a civil rights activist at an early age. In 1955 Rev. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He also served as the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). During the 1963 March on Washington, he delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. It was on that occasion Rev. King obtained his reputation as one of the greatest public speakers in American history. He also became known as a radical, and became an object of the FBI's COINTELPRO. A strategy employed by the government whereby undercover agents were sent to spy on the activities of blacks.

King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for fighting racism with nonviolence. He also worked hard to improve the lives of the poor. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

**MALCOM X:** Born May 19, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska. He was a no-nonsense black nationalist leader. His opponents called him a “black supremacist.” However, Malcolm X was one of the most charismatic African American leaders. He was also a Muslim. Malcolm X was murdered in February 1965.