

'Man of Color'

During a time of extreme racism in the city of Los Angeles, he was the first black person to graduate from USC's School of Dentistry and his wife

Vada followed suit to become the 1st black female to graduate from the same institution. He fought racism by trying to provide housing for the flood of blacks coming to Los Angeles for work but was being denied housing during the 1920's. These efforts lead to him becoming the first black person to build and own a hotel in Los Angeles. The Somerville Hotel later became known as the Dunbar Hotel, the center of all that was Jazz frequented by the likes of Count Bassie, Lionel Hamilton, Duke Ellington and other jazz greats of the 1930's & 1940's.

John Somerville was born in Jamaica and migrated to the US at the age of 19 in search of a higher education and to find his fortune. He arrived in San Francisco where he fell in love with the city and its beautiful architecture but later moved to Los Angeles to escape the rampant racism that existed. He soon found that racism at the time was part of the American culture. Not to be undone, John, through a strong will not be a victim of racism and a determination to succeed, focused on changing things. He soon proved to be the first in many accomplishments including the first black California delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1936 and in 1949, the first black person appointed to the Los Angeles Police Commission. In 1913, he started the LA chapter of the NAACP in his home and in 1954; he was declared an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his contributions to Anglo-American relations. On December 31st 2005, JCA will honor the late John Somerville with the "Trailblazer Award" and kick off (Next Column)

re-establishing the "John and Vada Somerville Scholarship" at our 2006 New Year's Ball (Annual End Of Year Celebration).

Please join us in highlighting the Jamaica contribution to America's culture as we pursue our efforts to share the rich diversity that is Jamaica with the other cultures that make up the great city of Los Angeles.



Jamaica Cultural Alliance (JCA) was established in 1997, and started its journey operating as a project of Community Partners, a

parenting non-profit organization. In 2000 JCA graduated to its own non-profit operating status. The concept of JCA was born out of the need to identify and galvanize Jamaicans and people of other Caribbean/West Indian nations as a people.

JCA has been positioning itself and is now prepared to launch the next level to achieve this and other goals. We will be recruiting board members in the month of January 2006 and invite those interested in our goals and mission to contact us at www.jamaicaculture.org or drop us a line at our address below.

WHAT! NO NEW YEAR'S EVE PLANS?

By popular demand, JCA's year end celebration will truly be "year's end" – so dust off your dancing shoes, plan your finest attire and join us in grand style for JCA's New Year's Eve Ball. Detour Posse and DJ Gregory G are on board to provide nostalgic and current musical variety as we dance away 2005 and welcome 2006 with champagne toasts and wonderful wishes. We've been enticed back to the **Torrance Hilton** and yes we've blocked rooms at a special rate so you can party in style.

RSVPS ASAP @ Tel: 323.692.0423

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



Ena Lue Sang Allen
Feb 1, 1924 - Mar 28, 2005

The first female registrar of the Supreme Court, the first woman appointed as Master in Chamber of the Supreme Court and the first female judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica. Incidentally, Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the U. S. Supreme Court in 1984 – Justice Allen retired from the Jamaican Supreme Court in 1982.

As Jamaica and Jamaican's continue to be first in many fields, JCA is proud to have acknowledged Justice Allen's accomplishments by honoring her with the JCA Trailblazer Award 2003.

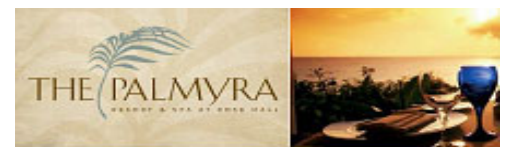
In 1978 Justice Allen along with members of the St. Andrew Business and Professional Women's Club founded the "Elsie Bemand Home for Girls" (See article on next page), a temporary shelter for girls in need of care and protection, and who were not involved in violent crimes.

Ena's daughter, Mrs. Karen McCaw encourages that efforts to honor her late mother be directed to the continued support of this worthwhile project.

Additional information about the "Elsie Bemand Home for Girls" can also be found at www.jamaicaculture.org.

We miss You Ena!

(Continued on next page)



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

(Cont. from page 1)



Hon. Alfred Rattray
Jan 19, 1925 - Apr 5, 2005

Senator 1989 - 2002; founder and architect of the Jamaica Stock Exchange, Attorney-at Law, founder and architect of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO), Co-Founding Partner of Rattray, Patterson, Rattray; Economist; Chartered Secretary & Administrator, Chartered Accountant, Member Executive and National Executive of the People's National Party. Recipient of many awards including Order of Jamaica – 1980.

Jamaica Cultural Alliance will miss his kindness, support and encouragement.

OUR YOUTH OUR FUTURE

JCA's collaboration with Long Beach City College's (LBCC) History 27B department to host our 7th Annual Tea Party (2005) in July is a strong example of our continued efforts to promote cultural exchanges, be more involved in the community and encourage youth participation. This concept produced a success that was beyond our expectations as the attendance of students and young people far exceeded our anticipation.

Held in the campus' Nordic Lounge, the work and efforts put into the setup, preparation and decor as well as and the menu that included authentic Jamaican recipes made for an afternoon of great dining and entertainment. Director of LBCC's Culinary Arts Department, Chef Romain Bertein and his staff of student volunteers were the recipients of a much-deserved standing ovation for an outstanding performance. The highlight of this collaboration was the fashion show presented by recent graduates of LBCC's Fashion Design Department, which demonstrated the unique creativity and excellence of our future designers. Super talented Kitaka & Friends provided the musical entertainment rendering such numbers as "They gonna talk", "Main Squeeze" and "Jump Nyabingi". Their performance was over the top and we recommend highly them so please visit

Jamaica Cultural Alliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit and contributions are tax deductible.

5510 Edgewood Pl., #2, L. A., CA 90036
www.jamaicaculture.org
* Tel: 323.692.0423*

www.jamaicaculture.org to contact Kitaka.

JCA's gratitude to board member and LBCC's History 27B professor, Melvin Ross for taking the lead in this project along with the support and assistance of the other board and advisory board members is unquestionable.



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gracekennedy@gkco.com
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THE ELSIE BEMAND HOME FOR GIRLS

Founded APRIL 1979 by Justice Ena Allen

The plight of adolescent girls who were brought before the Family Court became the concern of **Justice Ena Allen**. She along with other members of the St. Andrew Business and Professional Women's Club, including the now deceased Jennifer Cox and Margaret Forte Q. C., found a solution by establishing a home as a temporary shelter for girls in need of care and protection, and who were not involved in violent crimes.

During the 25 years of its existence, approximately 450 girls have been admitted to the Home for extended periods of up to several years. Most came through the Family Court under a Fit Person Order, and most remain until the age of 18. They attend schools in the Corporate Area and some have been successful in the CXC and GCE examinations. Our objective is to prepare the girls to become stable and productive members of society. What a challenge it has been to preserve the existence of the Home amidst problems with alternative accommodation, financial constraints and other misfortunes! However, there have been positives. Some of our past girls are making their contributions both in the public and private sectors. It is for this reason, therefore, that Justice Ena Lue Sang Allen remained committed to the support of the Home and its goal of encouraging young women to accept their role in the development of their country.

Your Help makes a Difference:

Approximately 45 percent of their overall expense is covered by Children's Services for each girl. The remaining 55 percent is derived from contributions from the St. Andrew Business and Professional Women's Club, the Methodist Church, donations from caring individuals, organizations and fund-raising events. Donations of cash, goods and services such as, counseling, mentoring, homework assistance, needed and always welcome.



LIVE AND WORK IN JAMAICA

Grace Kennedy Limited presents an exciting opportunity for you to experience life in Jamaica - up close and personal. If either of your parents or grandparents are originally from Jamaica, you could qualify to gain work experience in a diverse range of industries while experiencing the warmth and hospitality for which Jamaicans are famous.

The GK Birthright Programme is a cultural and professional internship geared at highlighting all aspects of Jamaican life while helping participants to move towards their career goals. This programme gives successful candidates a well-rounded Jamaican experience over a two-month period working on rotation in companies within the Grace Kennedy group. The internship experience is designed to benefit participants in a variety of ways including practical experience and mentorships. The 2005 internship programme ran from June to the first week of August.

Participants are hosted by families within the Grace Kennedy Limited network and will become part of these families for the duration of the programme. Grace Kennedy covers all living expenses during the internship and candidates are taken on a variety of weekend activities which exposes them to the Jamaican heritage by immersing them in our historic sites, natural and human resources, and of course, our beaches!

It's not all work: In Jamaica we work and play hard and so rest and relaxation should definitely be part of your agenda. Through our weekend programmes you will have an opportunity to, meet Jamaicans from all walks of life, and immerse yourself in our (*your*) rich culture and heritage.

For further information, please email us at jamaicanbirthright@gkco.com.

