

*Liberty Hall: The Legacy of Marcus Garvey*

# Liberty Hall Speaks!!!

## Summer Art 2015 Brings “Love” to Love Lane

The projects undertaken by Liberty Hall (LH) are geared towards uplifting the community, and by extension, the wider society. This year’s Summer Art Programme followed that paradigm. Under the theme, “**Up You Mighty Race**”, the 2015 edition of LH’s Summer Art Programme involved creating a mural on the back wall of Liberty Hall which is situated on Love Lane. The idea of the mural is to send messages of peace and hope as well as to motivate residents to always strive to do what is right.

The mural was the brainchild of Dr. Donna McFarlane, Director/Curator of Liberty Hall. Being situated in a volatile section of Downtown Kingston, Liberty Hall is no stranger to violence. However, in the months leading up to the Programme, there seemed to have been an increase in the number of killings, robberies and other crimes. Dr. McFarlane became very perturbed with what was happening around Liberty Hall, especially when the violence struck close to home. First, a former caretaker of Liberty Hall was killed and then, the 11 month old baby of a former

student of Liberty Hall was killed by a stray bullet while his mother was giving him a bath.

Stunned by these killings, Dr. McFarlane decided that Liberty Hall had to find a way to inspire members of the surrounding community to stop the violence. It was after a visit to Liberty Hall by Pat Stanigar, a friend of Liberty Hall, that the notion of a mural was first conceived. After hearing about Dr. McFarlane’s plan, Mr. Stanigar suggested she view the street murals located on Fleet Street, in South Side, Downtown Kingston. Dr. McFarlane and members of LH staff made a trip to Fleet Street where they were awestruck by the artwork on the walls in the community. After this site visit, the decision to do the mural was finalized.

Subsequent to LH securing funding from the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and Kingston Bookshop Limited, the Programme began on Monday, July 6 with 40 participants ranging in age from 7-17 years. Four Art students from the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Perform-

Arts, namely Marvin Thompson, Ramon Christie, Demar Grant and Yvad Campbell, were contracted to guide the students throughout the process. Participants were placed in four groups with each group choosing an Adinkra symbol for identification, as usual. One of the first activities of the programme was to take the children to Fleet Street to view the murals to familiarize them with what was to be done. Following the visit, they discussed notions of community, violence and family and then they were asked to make sketches of what they would like to see as part of the mural at Liberty Hall. The tutors then collated the sketches and the groups agreed to what would be transferred to the wall. Then the hard, but fun work, began. The children were very excited about painting the images they had conceptualized; this included an image of Garvey’s head on the Statue of Liberty thereby portraying him as a liberator for Black people.

*Cont’d Page 3*



Right: Students drawing inspiration from the murals at Fleet Street

Left: Mr. Grant, tutor, giving instruction to his charges in preparation for the mural.



Inside This Issue	Page
Summer Art 2015 Brings “Love” to Love Lane	1
From the Director/Curator’s Desk	2
Did You Know?	2
Summer Arts 2015 cont’d	3
Liberty Hall Revives the Beat	4
An Open Forum on Reparation	4
Film Screenings at Liberty Hall	5
Garvey Research/Reference Library	5
Adult Computer Literacy Programme	6
Garvey After-School Programme	6
Marcus Mosiah Garvey Multimedia Museum	7
From Our Guestbook	7
Garvey Quote of the Period	8
In Our Gift Shop	8

## From the Director/Curator's Desk



The United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 68/237 proclaimed 2015-2024 the **International Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, and Development**. This very important resolution throws light on the fact that people of African descent, primarily those who are descendants of enslaved and colonized Africans, suffer universally from their lack of full enjoyment of economic, social, civic, cultural, and political rights or full and equal participation in all aspects of society. While Jamaica is a signatory to the resolution, there is precious little promotion of the decade in Jamaica or any notable planned activities.

For Liberty Hall, existing as it does in

a volatile inner-city community that is plagued by violence, the universal 'lack' that is the focus of the decade, is evident on a daily basis. However, the focus of the establishment, as demonstrated by the Gleaner in April, is on how violence adversely affects the business community, rather than any in-depth consideration for the people who live in these communities. This fact was boldly highlighted in April when the eleven month old son of Liberty Hall's past student Omar, was killed by a stray bullet while being bathed by his mother; a bullet fired by a teenage boy. This act was one of many in the surrounding communities where within a short period of the first four months of 2015 over 25 persons were killed.

The Summer Art Project titled, "Bringing the Love Back to Love Lane" was our response to the violent events. We believed that engaging children from the surrounding communities and beyond in creating and painting a mural on the back of Liberty Hall which is directly on Love Lane would be positive encouragement to community members and all others to unite against violence. Community members particularly small shop operators on the Lane as

well as residents, positively embraced the project; taxi operators who drive through Love Lane endorsed it; and the end result is an artistic beacon of hope. The Gleaner published a centre spread on the project and the mural is shown to visitors of the Marcus Garvey Museum.

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20150727/destination-downtown-returning-love-love-lane#.VbeAnoPZ-4E.email>

LH continues to deepen and expand all of its programmes attempting to widen its 'clearing' of positive and uplifting activities within a forest of violence and often despair. We hope that our activities will soon join with those of others that we know are taking place throughout the Island and the African Diaspora that will soon obliterate the overwhelming forest of violence and lack. We also continue to support the demand for Reparations Now that will enable achievement of Jamaica as the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business.

One Love,

**Donna McFarlane, Ph.D.**  
Director/Curator

## Did You Know?

- The Black star Line was launched in 1919 and had a fleet of three (3) ships by 1920 named the SS Frederick Douglass, the SS Shadyside and the Antonio Maceo.
- Kwame Nkrumah, former President of Ghana named Ghana's national shipping company 'The Black Star Line'.
- The UNIA's Sixth International Convention was held at Edelweiss park in 1929, opening with a massive procession through the streets of Kingston.
- Black people were not allowed to own their own businesses in Jamaica in the early 19th century which is why it was so important to Garvey to establish enterprises that were owned and managed by Black people.
- The Negro factories Corporation, one of the UNIA's enterprises, was a big part of economic life in Harlem.
- The UNIA established educational/training institutions such as Booker T. Washington University and Liberty University.



## Summer Art 2015 Brings “Love” to Love Lane *cont’d*

Even before completion, the mural had a positive effect on the residents of Love Lane who would come out and admire the project daily. Some even assisted in the painting process while others provided security for the children, tutors and even the scaffolding that was left up for the entirety of the Programme. Everyone applauded the efforts of the children and Liberty Hall.

As is customary, the Programme featured a Summer Escape which is a field trip in the final week of the Programme. Summer Escape 2015 saw the participants and tutors of the Summer Art Programme, as well as the LH staff exploring Green Grotto Caves, after which, they enjoyed a fun day at Puerto Seco Beach Park. En route to the Caves, the children got to see Garvey’s childhood home and tour the St. Ann Parish Library. Here they posed for pictures with the Garvey statue in the courtyard and visited the Marcus Garvey Resource Centre.

On the final day of the Programme, there was an official unveiling of the mural which was preceded by a performance/demonstration by the Grupo Cativairo Capoeira Jamaica; and a recital by children in the Programme. Specially invited guests, including the Friends of Liberty Hall, as well as members of the community were there to witness the unveiling.

Liberty Hall would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) for its sponsorship of \$500,000 which was used to pay the tutors and purchase material for the Programme. Thanks also to Mrs. Sonia Fuller, Director, Kingston Bookshop (KB) who donated \$100,000 on behalf of the company which was used to purchase additional material for the programme.

Our Summer Escape would not have been possible without the kind sponsorship of Mr. Michael Campbell of Island Car Rentals (ICR) who provided transportation, inclusive of

drivers, for the excursion; and Ms. Sandraleen Tucker of Green Grotto Caves & Attractions who waived the entry fee for the tour of the attraction. Many thanks to of ICR and Green Grotto Caves & Attractions for their support of our programme. Whilst we are very grateful to all our sponsors, we would like to specially mention Kingston Bookshop and Island Car Rentals who have repeatedly sponsored our Summer Art Programme over the years. Your continued support is greatly appreciated especially in this daunting economic climate. Special thanks also to Ms. Faith Samuels of Continental Bakery for providing 30 loaves of bread which were used to make sandwiches for participants at the closing ceremony.

Summer Art 2015 was a great success and LH is grateful that we can continue to make a positive impact within our community. The production of the mural was featured in the Tuesday, July 28 issue of the Daily Gleaner on pages A6-A7.

### Scenes from Summer Art 2015



## Liberty Hall Revives the Beat

Liberty Hall celebrated Garvey's birthday in a different format this year. Instead of the usual Annual Marcus Garvey Lecture, a Reasoning Session was held in its place, titled, **Reviving the Beat: Liberty Hall as Blues Dance Hall**. Consequent to discovering that Liberty Hall was once a venue for dances, the decision was taken to invite persons to share their recollections of that period in the building's history.

Panellists included Jimmy Solo, veteran Sound System Operator, and Osmond Harvey, community stalwart. The discussions were moderated by

Prof. Carolyn Cooper, Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies, UWI, Mona and Herbie Miller, Director/Curator, Jamaica Music Museum. The event was attended by a diverse audience that included academics, musicians and the man/woman in the street. Lively discussions were generated by the perspectives and memories of those on the panel which resulted in a prolonged event that went well into the afternoon. Dr. Clinton Hutton also passed through and made valuable contributions from the floor.

Memories included venues such as Forrester's Hall, Caterer's Lawn,

Jubilee Tile Garden, Jamaica Success Club, Barbeque and our own Blues Dance Hall, Liberty Hall. A part of the discussion also focussed on legendary "rude boys" or "bad men" such as Zackie The High Priest, Buggs B, and Niah Keith, as well as heavy weight Sound Systems including Tom "The Great" Sebastian, Sir Coxson The Downbeat, King Edward The Giant, Duke Reid The Trojan and Prince Buster, The Voice of the People. Personal anecdotes were shared by the discussants and others from the floor. The reasoning was very stimulating and it was followed by the playing of the music of that time.



Moderator and panelists in discussion.



Audience listening intently to anecdotes.



Patrons having refreshment and reasoning in LH's garden

## An Open Forum on Reparation

Liberty Hall, in association with the National Commission on Reparation (NCR) hosted a forum on Reparation on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. The forum coincided with the British Prime Minister's visit to Jamaica and was aptly titled, **"Dear Prime Minister Cameron & Princess Anne: Reparation Time Now!"** The forum was organized to foster understanding about the reasons why the Caribbean region should be compensated by Britain. It was an open forum and all were invited to participate.

The main address was delivered by Mr. Glenroy Watson, Secretary, U.K. Chapter of the Global Afrikan Congress, and was entitled, **"Why Britain owes the Caribbean Reparation."**

The event was well attended by

approximately 150 persons, the majority of whom were members of the Rastafarian community including Reggae Artiste, Bunny Wailer. A group of Rastafarians who were not represented on the Reparation Commission read a letter they had drafted to Prime Minister Cameron putting forward their own demands which included Repatriation. There were other presentations from members of the audience which was followed by a lively Q&A section.

The event was moderated by Dr. Donna McFarlane, Deputy Chair, National Commission on Reparation (NCR) with Prof. Verene Shepherd, Chair, (NCR) bringing greetings. Dr. Jahlani Niaah, Member, NCR introduced the Guest Speaker. Performances

were done by Ms. Olivia Derrit, Mr. Omar Ryan and Ras Ivi & the Family of Rastafari. The evening's proceedings were closed by Prof. Rupert Lewis, Member, NCR, and Chairman of the Friends of Liberty Hall.



Above: Bunny Wailer addressing audience.



A section of the large audience.



## Film Screenings at Liberty Hall

In recent times, Liberty Hall has become a preferred venue for film screenings. During the period, we hosted 3 screenings of various films and documentaries. The first, a PBS documentary titled, **Slavery By Another Name**, was screened on September 29 courtesy of Sons & Daughters of Jamaica. The film spans eight decades, from 1865 to 1945, and recounts how in the years following the Civil War, new insidious forms of forced labour emerged in the American South, keeping hundreds of thousands of African Americans in bondage, trapping them in a brutal system that would persist until the onset of World War II.

Approximately, 15 persons were in attendance, the majority of whom

found the film to be very informative.

On November 17, LH facilitated a screening of Linda Aïnouche's, **Dreadlocks Story**. The film, which was viewed by over 60 persons, examines the surprising spiritual links between Jamaican Rastas and Indian Sadhus. Overall, the film was well received by the audience. Media houses also came to record the event as it had been promoted by the press. Many persons stayed behind to question Dr. Aïnouche about the source of funding for the film as well as the Indian contribution to the overall Rastafari movement.

Then on November 25, 20 persons watched **The Eagle and the Lion**. The Eagle and the Lion is an award

winning tele-play produced in Baltimore in 1987 by an all Black theatre company. This obscure film was lost for some time but through the process of film preservation, Juanita Goodman and company were able to premiere it at Liberty Hall for the first time in 27 years. A story of the powerful connection between Col. Hubert Julian and Emperor Haile Selassie; The Eagle and The Lion is an intoxicating account of the U.S., Jamaica, and Ethiopia during the era of The Black Nationalist Movement.

Ms. Goodman faced many questions from the audience, particularly, whether or not the film was a true story.

## Garvey Research/Reference Library

For the period under review, there were 27 users of the Adult Library and 25 users of the Children's Library. Of the users of the Adult Library, 7 were University students and 10 were High School students. The users undertook research on Garvey, Africa, and Slavery; and utilized a total of 52 items.

The Library benefitted from several donations, thereby increasing the collection by twelve (12). The additions are as follows:

Donated by the authors:

- Bonnaci, Guilia. **Exodus! Heirs and Pioneers, Rastafari Return to Ethiopia**. Kingston: UWI Press, 2015.
- Uribe, Diana. **Africa Nuestra Tercera Raiz**. Bogota: Penguin Random House, 2014.
- Jones, Edwin. **Contending with Administrivia**. Kingston: Arawak Publications, 2015.

Purchased:

- Hulme, Peter. **W. Adolphe Roberts These Many Years An Autobiography**. Kingston: UWI Press, 2015

Donated by the Publishers:

- **Remembering Garvey**. S.L.: Fanon Publishers, n.d.
- Williams, Densil A., and Morgan, Beverly. **Competitiveness of Small Nations: What Matters**. Kingston: Arawak Publications, 2012.
- Boxill, Ian (Ed.). **From Unipolar to Multipolar**. Kingston: Arawak Publications, 2014.
- McKenzie, St Hope Earl. **The Loneliness of a Caribbean Philosopher and Other Essays**. Kingston: Arawak Publications, 2013.
- Wilcott, Dorrell. **Vibration from Palampalam**. Kingston: Arawak Publications, 2012.
- Davis, Rae, et al. **The Story of the Telegraph in Jamaica**. Kingston: Arawak Publications, 2012.

Donated to the Children's Library by Ms. Ann Marie Bonner:

- Wilson, Lindy. **Steve Biko: A Jacana Pocket Biography**. Sunnyside: Jacana Media Ltd, 2012.

Donated by Ms. Jacqueline Dacosta:

- **The Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence: The Excellent Decade—2005-2015**.

The processing of books from the Cecil Gutzmore collection has quickened with the assistance of Miss Monique Fletcher. Since June 2015, 750 books have been processed and made accessible to the public, bringing the overall number of books processed since the handover, approximately 1,450.



Mrs. Fairweather-Sims, Librarian, accepting a copy of Diana Uribe's book from the author.

## Adult Computer Literacy Programme

A total of eighteen (18) of the twenty-two (22) students who registered in April successfully completed the course in July. Distinction was awarded to nine (9) students while credit was awarded to eight (8) and one (1) student awarded a pass. Several of the participants expressed their willingness to learn about the use of social media. Consequently, eight (8) Social Media sessions were conducted with five (5) past students in attendance.

The Adult Computer Literacy Programme went on a hiatus from August to October due to Miss Lois Brown, Computer Teacher, going on vacation leave. However, the Programme resumed November 16 when Miss Brown, returned. The Programme continues to equip learners with rudimentary computer skills, including

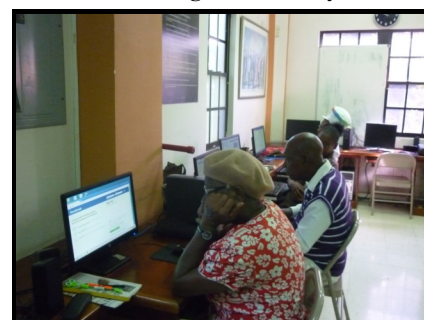
the use of the Microsoft Office suite, and the Internet. Fifteen (15) students are currently registered in the programme, (13 females and 2 males), and are scheduled to complete the course in March 2016.

The Adult Computer Literacy Programme will be enhanced by acquisition of a second N-computing system which will bring the total number of computers available to 12. However, at present, new students who own laptops have been asked to bring them to class in order to deal with the computer shortage.

The communities represented by students in the Adult Computer Literacy Programme are: Vineyard Town, Denham Town, Windward Road, Old Harbour, Greater Portmore, Pembroke Hall, Spanish Town and Bull Bay.



**The Graduating Class of July 2015.**



**Students familiarizing themselves with social media tools during a class.**

## Garvey After-School Programme

The After-School Programme for the Summer term closed on July 3 with the Awards Ceremony for the Reading Competition. Prizes were given to 1st through to 3rd positions in each age category. Special presentations were made to Miss Nathardia Ross and Miss Faith Young for their successful sitting of the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT). Miss Ross earned a place at Wolmer's Trust High School for Girls and Miss Young at Meadowbrook High School.

Forty three (43) students between the ages 7-17 years have been registered in the After-School Programme for the period under review. The communities they are from include: Denham Town, Charles Street, Paisley Road, Chancery Lane and as far as Spanish Town. The usual activities of Liter-

acy, Social Studies, Mathematics, Computing and Capoeira continued. However, Dance has been included to the After-School activities and is being taught by Ms. Tioma Allison.

New students to the programme were given a Diagnostic Test by the Literacy Teacher. The results showed that most students were reading below their grade level. One of the strategies employed to tackle this issue is to engage students in individual as well as small group activities to help them improve in reading. There has been marked improvement in the confidence of a few students and greater understanding in Mathematics for one particular student, Dana Campbell.

The term ended with Liberty Hall's Kwanzaa celebrations. The students

exchanged gifts that they made for each other; necklaces and bracelets, after which they were treated to lunch and a Grab Bag.



**Ms. Allison, Dance Teacher, demonstrating dance moves to the students.**



**Closing off festivities in the Garvey Great Hall.**

# Marcus Mosiah Garvey Multimedia Museum

Approximately 2,810 persons toured the Marcus Mosiah Garvey Multimedia Museum (MMGMM) during the period. International visitors to the MMGMM came mainly from the USA and Columbia. Local visitors came from the parishes of St. Andrew, Kingston and St. Catherine. Notable visitors include a Parliamentary group from Gordon House in October, as well as the wife of the Korean Ambassador. In addition, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and Chairman of the Pan-Afrikan Centre

of Namibia (PACON), Ms. Maureen Hinda, visited on July 29. She commented in the guest book that she had "... learned more about Africa in [a] few minutes than I had ever dreamed." She went further to say that she was "hopeful that this is a start of a relationship rebirth with the ideals of Marcus Garvey, appreciating the impact of his movement which was also felt in Namibia." Ms. Hinda made a presentation of a decorative Ostrich egg to Liberty Hall which was accepted by Dr. Donna McFarlane,

Director/Curator.

The portrait of Garvey, given to the IOJ in 1957 by the U.N.I.A. and featured in the museum since it opened, was sent to Cuba for restoration. It was returned to the museum in September. Thanks to the Institute of Jamaica, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ambassador Adale Robinson, Embassy of Jamaica, Havana; and Mr. Alexander Fernandez Tolmo, Restorer, Museo Biblioteca Servando Cabrera Moreno.



Ms. Hinda and a member of her entourage perusing the Garvey Research/Reference Library Collection



Dr. Donna McFarlane accepting a gift on behalf of Liberty Hall from Ms. Hinda

## From The Guest Book

Visitors to the Marcus Mosiah Garvey Multimedia Museum (MMGMM) are encouraged to comment on their experience. The feedback helps us to improve our services and the quality of our tours for a better experience. Here are some of the comments left in our Guest Book during the period July to December.

"I appreciate that visitors are being taught the truth and roots of their history and more importantly, informing us that we are the first of mankind. That we are inventors of mankind and that we are the ones that built this country and not destroyed it"  
- *Student of ICHS, July 10, 2015*

"A very interesting individual was Marcus Garvey with endless vision

for Black people. This needs to be duplicated islandwide."  
- *?, September 4, 2015*

"I feel so connected to my roots whenever I come here."  
- *?, November 18, 2015*

"What a wonderful, wonderful man... Who am I not to accomplish everything I want in my life. Anything is possible with will & determination. Papa garvey continues to teach me that Marcus Garvey LIVES. ASHE."  
- *Selina Brown, November 23, 2015*

"I enjoyed learning more about Marcus Garvey. Of particular interest to me was the globalization network that was decades ahead of its time. A man of vision leading in a way during his

time that is still relevant. Marcus Garvey, still inspiring leaders."  
- *Mondrel Oz, December 23, 2015*

"Central Police was here ..."  
- *December 29, 2015*

"Very interesting and informative!"  
- *House of Parliament, October 26, 2015*

"Amazing how Garvey's life made so many things better for all generations to come. One love & Blessings."  
- *Zuluman, Zimbabwe, August 14, 2015*



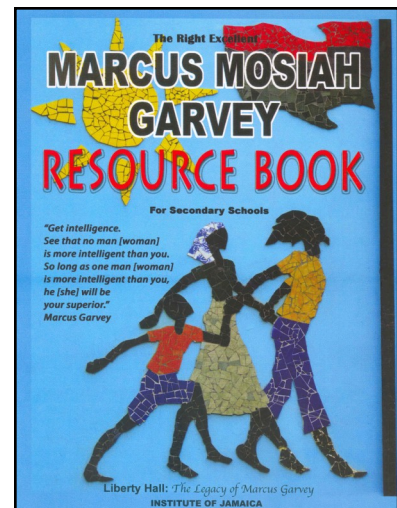
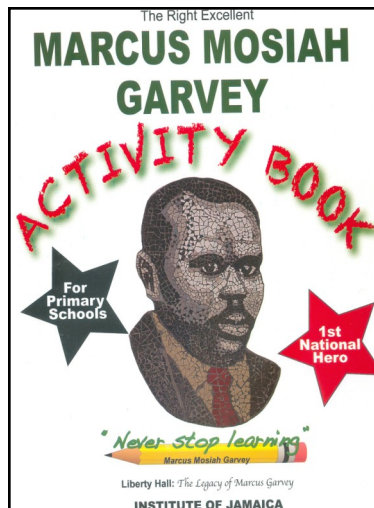
## Garvey Quote of the Period



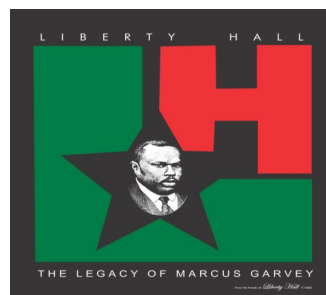
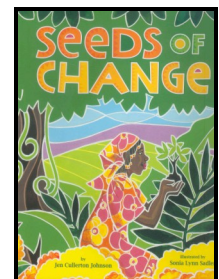
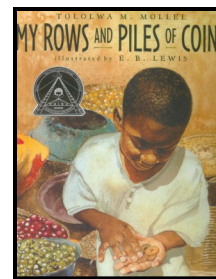
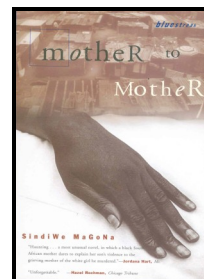
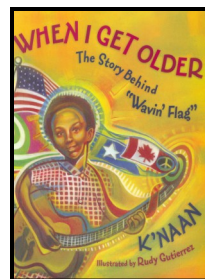
**"Always maintain a strong will and emphasize that strong will even more when from the first reasonable judgments, you come to the conclusion that you are right"**

The primary mission of Liberty Hall: *The Legacy of Marcus Garvey* is "to inform the public about the work of Jamaica's first National Hero and to use his philosophy and opinions to inspire, excite, and positively affect the self-identity of Jamaican people, while creating social and economic wealth."

## In Our Gift Shop



Currently available in our gift shop is our "The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey Activity Book" for Primary Schools and the "The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey Resource Book" for Secondary Schools. Also, available are Children's Literature from the Africa Collection of Teaching for Change. Four (4) of the 34 titles available listed below.



### Contact Information

Liberty Hall: *The Legacy of Marcus Garvey*

76 King Street, Kingston, Jamaica.

Tel: (876) 948-8639/7058

Fax: (876) 948-8640

Email: [info@libertyhall-ioj.org.jm](mailto:info@libertyhall-ioj.org.jm)

Website: [www.libertyhall-ioj.org.jm](http://www.libertyhall-ioj.org.jm)

Donna McFarlane, Ph.D.: Executive Editor

Netollia Fairweather-Sims: Editor