

Bob Marley, Late Reggae Legend Opens In Theatres February 14

Jamaicans are being encouraged to go out and see the biopic of late reggae legend Bob Marley, which will open in theatres on February 14.

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, says the film 'Bob Marley: One Love, "is going to be huge . . . It's going to make Bob Marley and Jamaica larger than life."

"It's a wonderful story; it's a love story mixed with emotion, and it's mixed with so many other experiences. I encourage you all to go and see it [so that] you can continue to spread the word of love that Jamaica represents," she added.

The minister was speaking at the Launch of Reggae Month 2024 at Fellowship Tabernacle in Kingston, on Sunday (January 28).

Jamaica hosted the premiere of Bob Marley: One Love at Carib 5 in Crossroads on January 23.

Dignitaries, local and international officials, members of

the local and international film fraternity and many others, attended it. Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, who was also in attendance at the movie premiere, lauded the film as a precursor to the Reggae Month activities, which will be held in February.

He stated that the movie takes Marley's message "of brotherhood, fraternity, and peace" to the entire world. In addition, Dr. Clarke congratulated Minister Grange for the "wonderful display of Jamaican warmth and hospitality" at the premiere, which was broadcast all around the world.

Looking forward to Reggae Month, Dr. Clarke added, "Reggae is our product; it comes out of the bosom of the Jamaican identity, and it is something that we embrace and we take to the world."

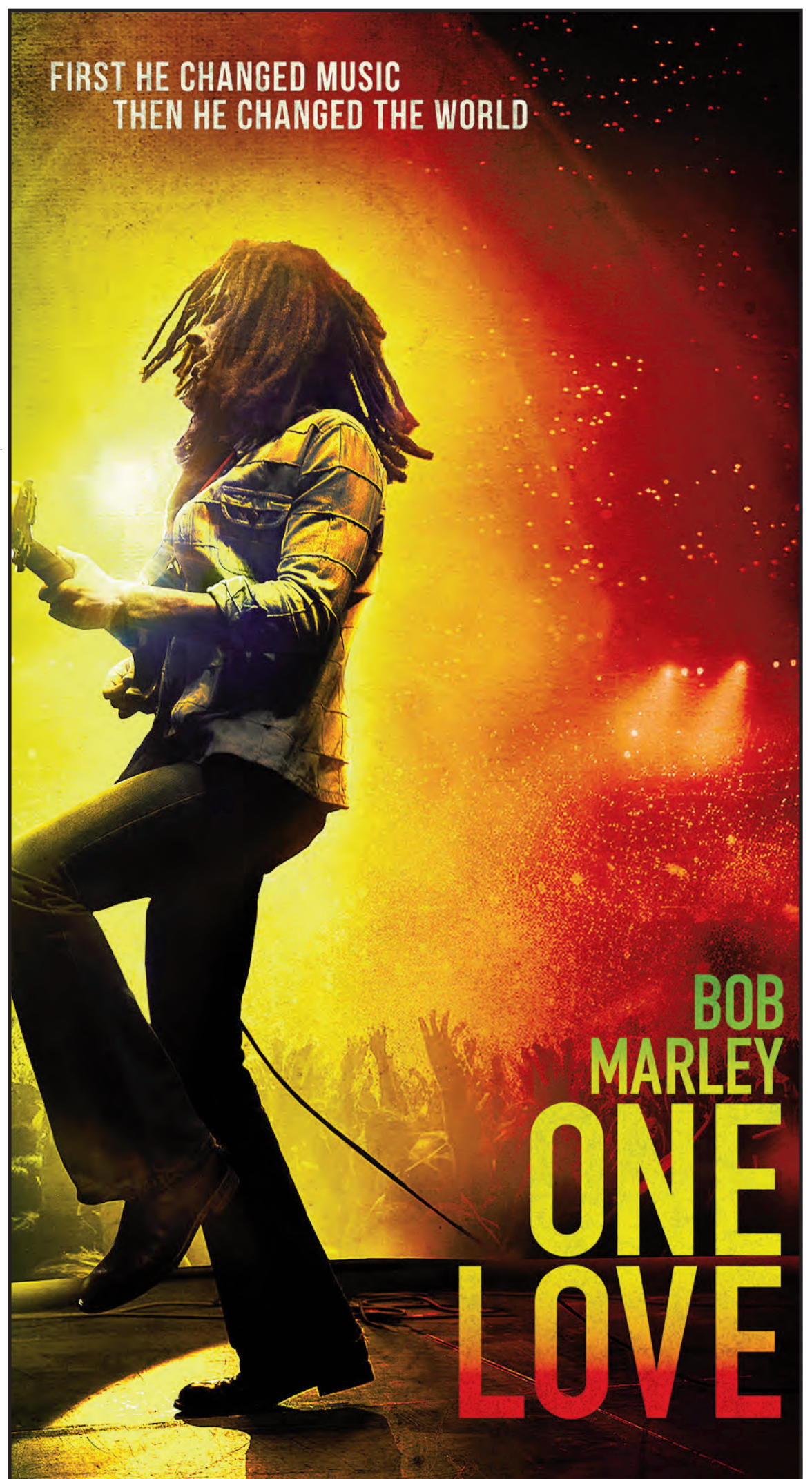
Since 2008, the month of February has been recognized annually in Jamaica as Reggae Month. This year's theme is 'Come ketch di

RIDDIM.'

Minister Grange, while encouraging participation in the roster of activities during February, also urged Jamaicans to embrace the spirit of reggae year-round.

"Let us not confine our celebration of reggae to this designated month alone but, rather, let us embrace its timeless message. As we honor Reggae Month, let's carry the legendary words by Bob Marley –

One Love, One Heart – in our hearts as we strive to create a world that reflects the positive spirit of reggae," she said. (Source: JIS.gov)



Black History Month Perspective: Where Are We?



Leon Fraser

It is very hard not to notice the absence of Blacks or African Americans who could be qualified as leaders of a prominent political party in the USA. In a country of over 336 million people, is there no desire among Blacks or African Americans to lead an alternative to the two prevailing political parties? Further, the question for me, is it that only leaders with a Euro-Centric background are capable of leading this country?

If the votes of the Black or African American population are critical, why haven't Blacks/African Americans start buttressing themselves in either of the political parties and more in line with creating the necessary equality that they've been promised in "We the People"?

In my view, there is no way that the "promised equality" will emanate from the leaders of either of the two leading political parties until fingers and feet are held to the fire.

With the historical bag-

gage of neglect shown by both leading parties to persons of Black/African ethnicity, it is a mystery to me as to why they refuse to strike out in their own direction and form a coalition political party. There is strength in their numbers and an indication that they probably know the value that their presence or mis-education is playing havoc, and to which they are immersed as a result of terms such as inclusion and diversity. Clearly, as I see it, this contributes to their narrow political choice options, or the lack of it.

Besides, in my view, in every ethnic group the force in this country has relied on the strength of their numbers and core values to keep their distinct traditions and cultural legacy alive. But it seems to me not to be the case with Blacks/African Americans.

There ought to be a litmus test to strengthen the reasoning as to why there is a definite need to have something that we can have more control over or at least to have a say in how things are done. Groups that have less impact politically than the Blacks/African Americans in this country must also have more to say, at certain points, as to what direction this country will go.

The two dominant political parties will determine which areas they will adopt and promote qualified Blacks/African Americans over which they will have veto power.

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The former president, now running for re-election, has spilled some of the beans as to what really goes on in certain circles, but the meat of the matter is really not discussed. The lawsuit against the Democratic Party had valid points, even though it came up when former President Obama was in the big house, yet no one has brought a similar suit against the Republican Party. Folks who know that during the early stages of

the formation of the United States, the Democratic Party was the one that did all it could to deny Blacks the vote, while the Republicans had Black Americans on their slates and got into office.

The point is this: they are both wings of the same bird. Blacks/African Americans need to launch out on their own and not ask permission from anyone of any ethnic persuasion if they can do so. I will forever ask the same question: Where is the Black Intelligentsia

that was promoted by a certain social agency that states they are the oldest organized agency for Blacks/African Americans in this country?

The current political scene and stage are not welcoming to Blacks/African Americans in this country because they have been stigmatized as something "you don't want to get into." Most Black folks with political degrees hardly get into office, but contrast that with a farmer whose family

lived on and farmed lands for years, will find it easy to get endorsements from sitting political heads based simply on the obvious. Former President Obama was the exception and the powers that quickly plugged that loophole. In some quarters, his success was credited to his grandparents on his mother's side of the family.

The financial resources of the Black/Africa community have never been higher but there is a need for more cooperation among

them. Are we reluctant to build our own financial, academic, and social institutions for our own development, but rather continue on this idiotic philosophy of inclusion and integration? Where has it gotten us as a people that were downtrodden?

We've lost more than we have gained, but it depends on what we have lost and what we have gained. What do you think?

Jamaica Diaspora Conference Slated For June 16-19, Montego Bay

By E. Hartman Reckord and Vashiti Lewis

Jamaicans abroad are being invited to attend the 10th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference scheduled to take place June 16 to 19, 2024.

The four-day event, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and its Legacy Partners, is scheduled to take place in Montego Bay, St James.

Minister of State, Hon. Alando Terrelonge made the announcement during a recent radio interview on WESU 88.1 FM in Connecticut, USA, where he

shared views on the topic 'Collaborating with the Diaspora to Build a Stronger Jamaica'

Mr. Terrelonge, who has responsibility for Diaspora affairs, said the Conference will focus on several topics, including trade, investments, education, health, crime and agriculture.

Members of the Diaspora will also have the opportunity to interact with Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, and other government ministers.

The Jamaica Diaspora Conference is a biennial global forum that connects persons of Jamaican descent living across the

globe, with the aim of strengthening linkages and building alliances that will fuel the island's growth and development on the global stage.

Terrelonge also used the opportunity to speak about the work of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) and its youth arm, the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council (GJDYC).

The State Minister said the GJDC is a consultative body and a key mechanism used by Government to connect with the Diaspora.

"The Diaspora Council lets us know what is happening in the diaspora, how we can help, what they expect of their governments



Alando Terrelonge

and how they, too, can contribute to the country with training, investment,

education, health and crime strategies," Terrelonge added.

Terrelonge noted that the Council's membership, which initially comprised representatives from eight traditional locations, including the USA, Canada and United Kingdom, has expanded to 30.

The new regions include Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Pacific, and Western Europe.

Terrelonge said there are also sector leaders represented on the Council who have direct linkages with the Ministry of Education and Youth.

And he further indicated that there are Focal Points within Government Ministries to ensure that the ideas of members of the Diaspora are shared, thereby enabling them to make valuable contributions to Jamaica's growth and development.

"It is all about engaging, connecting and empowering the Diaspora while also being able to provide goods and service . . . through our Consulates and Embassies and to our different Missions across the world," Terrelonge stated. (Source: JIS.gov)

Baram Designated A Super Lawyer

Attorney David Baram was designated a Super Lawyer for 2023 published in the Connecticut Magazine.

Super Lawyers select attorneys by accepting nominations from attorneys throughout the state, evaluation by a third party research team looking at 12 key categories, review by a credentialed Blue Ribbon Panel of attorneys, and final selection. Attorney Baram was designated a Super Lawyer in 2009, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Attorney Baram was one of nine attorneys in Connecticut listed a Super Attorney in the practice area of Business/Corporate. In addition to his practice in business and corporate law, Attorney Baram practices in the areas of Residential and Commercial Real Estate, Probate and Estate Planning, Family Law, Zoning and Municipal Law, Commercial Transactions, Personal



David Baram

Injury, and NonProfit Law.

He is practicing in the law firm of O'Malley, Deneen, Leary, Messina and Oswecki with offices in Windsor and Bloomfield. Previously he was the managing member of his former law firm Baram, Tapper & Gans LLC. He is also legal counsel to the Connecticut Package Store Association and to the Connecticut Region of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee). Baram is an

approved Probate Mediator appointed by the Connecticut Probate Court Administrator.

Attorney Baram also served as the Probate Judge for the Tobacco Valley Probate Court which includes the towns of Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, East Granby and Suffield. He has an extensive record of municipal experience having previously served as Mayor of Bloomfield, State Representative for Bloomfield and Windsor and also served as Chair of the General Law Committee (Consumer Protection matters), Chairman of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), President of the Bloomfield Chamber, Chairman of the Bloomfield Center Fire District Board of Commissioners, Chair of the Bloomfield Democratic Town Committee, and member of the

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Baram formerly served in numerous community organizations as President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation, Chair of the Jewish Federation Association of CT, President of Federation Homes and Beth Hillel Synagogue, former President of the CT Valley Region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, a former member of CONNIX (The Connecticut-Israel Exchange Commission), is currently an Honorary Board Member of the Mandell Jewish Community Center, and serves as a Board Member of the Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford.

David and his wife Paula live in Bloomfield.

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Fraud Alert: CT Department Of Labor Identifies Phishing Scheme Targetting Job Seekers

(Wethersfield, CT): Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo is urging residents to be aware of a new scam targeting job seekers. Criminals are soliciting

banking and other information by calling residents and claiming to be an employer registered with CTHires, the state's job bank.

Commissioner Bartolomeo said, "This is a truly

heartless scam that preys on people who are searching for work and eager to explore all opportunities. Technology has been at the forefront of connecting workers to jobs and employers—it's one of the reasons that the state's economy is strong and stable. Unfortunately, technology opens the door for fraud, so we urge residents to be protective of their data."

The attempts to steal personal data through this scam include callers asking for Social Security, bank account, and credit card numbers as well as telling residents they must pay a fee to have their application reviewed for employment. The agency recommends that all unemployment filers, CTHires users, and job seekers stay vigilant about this and other scams targeting residents.

Red Flags: How to Avoid Being a Victim:

Red Flag: You are asked to pay a

fee to apply for a job or be considered for a job.

Red flag: You are asked to give your Social Security number, bank account number or credit card details over the phone to complete your application.

Red flag: Urgency. The caller tells you they need to collect your information or you'll lose a job opportunity.

If an employer contacts you, always independently verify the company—do not release any personal information until you do. We recommend contacting your local [American Job Center](#) if anything seems out of the ordinary with a CTHires employer.

Check out the employer's website. You are looking for spelling errors, poor sentence construction, and missing contact information or questionable email addresses.

Use the company contact information provided on the website

to call the main desk and be transferred to human resources or the hiring manager.

Do not click on links in emails or texts unless you are confident that the sender is legitimate.

Trust your intuition and investigate further if anything seems suspicious.

If you think you may be a victim of this or other scams, please visit the CTDOL [fraud watch page](#). Residents who received calls from employers registered with [CTHires](#) that involved the caller asking for banking or credit card information, Social Security numbers or other personal data should report this to their local [American Job Center](#).

Children Celebrate Career Week In Jamaica

It's never too early for children to learn about potential career opportunities. Over a week at Christel House Jamaica, professionals from a wide variety of occupations visited classrooms to share their jobs and inspire students. Career Week culminated in a costume parade where children dressed for careers of their choice.

Professions representing engineers, pilots, farmers, cosmetologists, radio/TV/print journalists, law enforcement officers, crime scene investigators, athletes, health-care workers, chefs, and entertainers

participated in the Career Week activities with the theme Start Your Engines: Up, Up and Away.

"The presentations across the week were aimed at giving the students a summary understanding of what these jobs entailed and what qualifications are needed to be in these jobs," says Jason Scott, principal. "Presenters were asked to encourage, motivate, and inspire the learners. The event was a tremendous success." (Source: JIS.gov)



Kid doctors and child healthcare workers with Principal Jason Scott and Guidance Counselor Renae Raymond

State Senator McCrory Welcomes Hartford School Renovation Projects As 2024 School Project Priorities

HARTFORD – State Senator Doug McCrory (D-Hartford) welcomed the news that three Hartford school renovation projects had made the 2024 School Building Project Priority List and will now be reviewed by the legislature's Education and Finance Committees for further consideration.

The projects, approved by the School Construction Project Priority List Review Committee, include the complete renovations of the Maria C. Colón Sánchez Elementary School, the Montessori Magnet at Batchelder, and the S.A.N.D. Elementary School.

The renovations will overhaul interior spaces and building systems at all three schools to "like new" conditions and focus on improving instructional spaces, installing flexible seating options, and upgrading the schools' auditoriums. In all three cases, the state is



State Senator Doug McCrory

expected to provide reimbursements for around 95% of the costs of each overhaul.

"This list puts three of our schools a step closer to securing vital upgrades, providing Hartford students the up-to-date learning environments they deserve," Sen. McCrory, Senate chair of the Education Committee, said. "I will help push these projects over the finish line and put hundreds of thousands of dollars in state support to work for Hartford kids."

The Maria C. Colón

Sánchez Elementary School project has an estimated cost of \$96,945,196, of which the state is expected to cover \$92,097,936. Improvements to the school will include renewed outdoor spaces as well as HVAC and fire safety improvements.

The Montessori Magnet at Batchelder project is expected to cost \$102,569,302, of which the state will likely cover \$97,440,837. The renovations will incorporate up-to-date educational technology and include full air conditioning.

Meanwhile, the S.A.N.D. Elementary School project will cost around \$82,837,086 of which the state is expected to reimburse \$78,695,232. The overhaul will include renewed outdoor spaces as well as HVAC and fire safety improvements.

This year's legislative session will begin on February 7 and run through May 8

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