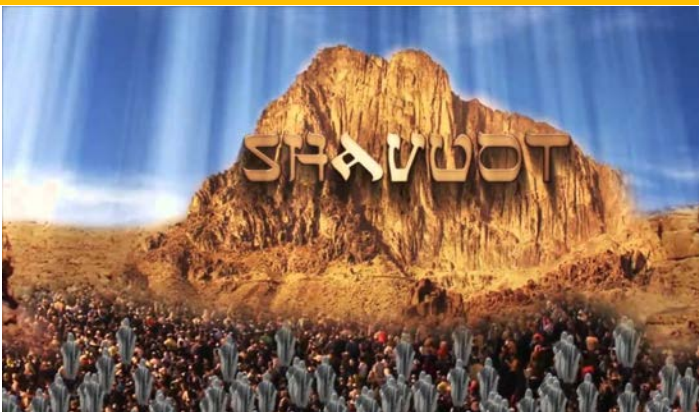


UNITED CONGREGATION OF ISRAELITES NEWSLETTER

HONOURING 14 of our ELDERS

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Shavuot MAY 30th

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Jewish tradition maintains that God chose to give the Torah to Israel in the wilderness rather than in the Land of Israel. Why? According to a *midrash* in *Mekhilta deRabbi Ishmael*:

“The Torah was given in public, openly in a free place. For had the Torah been given in the land of Israel, the Israelites could have said to the nations of the world: “You have no share in it.” But now that it was given in the wilderness publicly and openly in a place that is free to all, everyone wishing to accept it could come and accept it (*Midrash* on Ex. 19:2). Why was the Torah not given in the Land of Israel? In order that the nations of the world should not have the excuse for saying, “Because it was given in Israel’s land, therefore we have not accepted it.” Another reason: to avoid dissension among the tribes. Else one might have said, “In my territory the Torah was given.” And the other might have said, “In my territory the Torah was given.” Therefore, the Torah was given in the desert, publicly and openly, in a place belonging to no one. was to demonstrate that the Torah was intended for the whole world, not just the Jews, since the wilderness was not owned by any one nation (*Midrash* on Ex. 20:2).”

Caribbean Volunteers Expedition

JANUARY 2017 Trip to Jamaica

On the corner of Orange Street and Calabar Avenue, the traditional sounds of dominos slapping down on the table on a hot afternoon in a colorful Jamaican neighborhood were overshadowed by the booming of stereos playing suggestive, but lively, Reggae music. In the seemingly abandoned cemetery were sixteen volunteers who travelled afar to uncover the remaining pieces of Jewish ancestry left in the area. The group, the Caribbean Volunteer Expedition led by Rachel Frankel, Lauren Stahl, and Elizabeth Ritter, returned for the ninth time in January 2017 to continue cataloguing the Jewish Cemeteries of Jamaica.

At the end of the first day, the volunteers were treated to an elegant buffet supper hosted by the UCI Board at the Alhambra Hotel, where the group stays in Kingston. UCI President, Paul Matalon, gave a welcome talk after which everyone had an opportunity to introduce themselves to Paul and other members of the Board who attended. The UCI has to undertake preparation for the CVE each year, primarily "bushing and cutting," but also, sadly, clearing the significant amount of trash that gets thrown into these sacred sites.

Of the twenty-nine cemeteries throughout the island, as far as we know, seventeen still have visible graves. In most of the twelve, there are several with identifiable inscriptions and/or epitaphs, which are of significant interest to families, genealogists, and historians. As many of the Jewish records have been lost to earthquakes and fires, these stones are often the only "primary" information we have of our forefathers. The cemeteries themselves are fascinating architectural, cultural, and historical sites. The CVE continues to attract a variety of interested people, including five of Jewish Jamaican heritage, to volunteer their time in the effort to catalog and preserve these wonderful places.

Once the cataloguing is complete, the results will be available digitally on the Digital Library of the Caribbean (DLOC) for researchers to view. The material for Hunt's Bay has been submitted, and more information will be provided within the next few years as sites completed and the information organized.

Hope for this year's expedition was to finish cataloguing the graves at Orange Street and Elletson Road. The original concept of Rachel and Lauren was to catalogue the graves for the period included in the books by Barnett & Wright and Jacob Andrade, reason being that the newer area is well documented. However, during the process, it was discovered that the line of demarcation was not clear and it was decided we will continue beyond year 1900.

The Elletson Road site provides a different challenge and working conditions are more difficult as there is little shelter from the beating sun. This situation is greatly helped when our faithful lunch coordinator Liz brings us some of the most delicious Jamaican patties or other cooked food and cold drinks. However, cataloguing at Elletson was slow going, so another day or two will be necessary to complete the site.

As per usual on each Expedition week, a couple of days were spent "on the road" to visit Hunt's Bay Cemetery, Spanish Town, and then look for the other Jewish Cemeteries throughout the island, a few at a time, based on their location. (The cemetery at White Church Street in Spanish Town, which was cleared by Ainsley Henriques last year, still needs further excavation before the group can even begin cataloging.) We stopped there to take a look. Many of the graves are still under a couple of feet of dirt and trash, so White Church Street will also be a project for another time.

This year the plan was to visit Crescent Pen (near Oracabessa) to catalogue the Silvera-family plot at Tamarind House, an incredible find by Marina Delfos. We spent the night at the charming and picturesque Tamarind House. In the morning, we recorded the twelve gravestones located in the middle of the owner's lush vegetable garden with mountainous views; an ideal location that made one question, "Who needs heaven when one could lay here?"

The next day continued with looking for the Jewish Cemetery at Port Maria that was destroyed by the re-routing of the river some years ago. Our treasure hunt gathered quite an excited and friendly crowd who took us behind their houses and through the trees to investigate. After searching on both banks of the river for any remnants, a local resident generously mowed with his roaring weed whacker through a large area of chin high bush to uncover one remaining gravestone on his property. It was exciting.

In addition to Hunt's Bay, Orange Street, and Elletson Road, over the years, the group has catalogued the Jewish Cemeteries, at Falmouth, Lucea, Rose Corner, Black River, Lacovia, and St. Ann's Bay. This year Crescent Pen and Port Maria are added to the list.

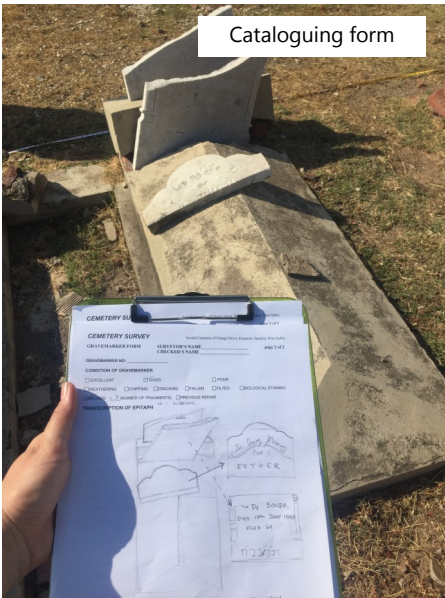
The CVE week always wraps up with Shabbat service at the Synagogue with short reports by Rachel and others of the group included during the service. After Service there is always an excellent Kiddush spread put on by members of the UCI congregation. This year was no exception; they went above and beyond with the eats and interesting conversation. It was a lovely evening.

The hospitality of the UCI is truly appreciated by the entire CVE group and, with G_d's grace, the cataloguing and adventure in Jamaica will continue in 2018.....

By Diane Lyon Wead

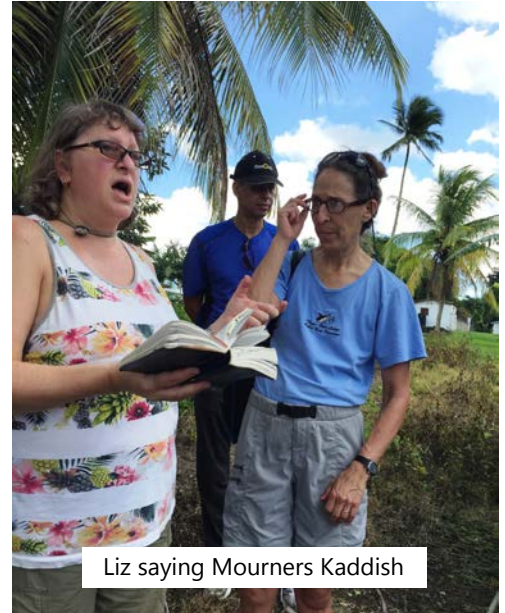


Diane Lyon Wead (right) with her daughter, Alice, beside great-great-grandfather Abraham



Cataloguing form

The cataloguing goes on ... Thanks to Rachel Frankel & the CVE Team



Liz saying Mourners Kaddish



View from the matar house at Orange Street Cemetery (below)



Crescent Pen at Tamarind House



Orange Street



(Left to Right) Bottom Row : **Larry Brafman, David London, Cecil Johnson (Our Driver), Joseph DeLeon**
 2nd Row: **Barbara Brafman,**
 3rd Row: **Liz Ritter, Karen Hupp, Lauren Stahl**
 4th Row: **Toni Pittock**
 5th Row: **Nikki Halpern, Alice Wead**
 6th Row: **Rachel Frankel, Marina Delfos**
 7th Row: **Joe DeLeon Sarah Casteel, Diane Lyon Wead**
 Top Row: **Cleveland Gooden (Pappa G), Alan Hupp, Jeff Orlick**

Acrostic Poetry

I ntelligent people

S ynagogues are holy

R esourceful population

A gricultural wealth

E nthusiastic learners

L audable government

by **Eva Pinchas**

I ncredible places

S ynagogues are popular

R aging war

A wful terrorism

E conomy is strong

L andscape is very little

by **Baruch Knight**

Thank you



Sha'are Shalom graciously accepts any contributions over and above members' set contributions. The synagogue's *Fair Share* system allows for those who can, to voluntarily do so. Thank you for your kindness and generosity, especially to those outside of our local community!

FOUNDERS DAY @ HILLEL ACADEMY

An excerpt from the message given to the school community on **January 6** by Margaret Adam, former student & long-serving staff member of Hillel:

"...Rabbi Bernard Hooker whose photograph hangs in the Samuel Henriques Hall was the Founder of Hillel. I was a little girl but I remember him so well. He led the Jewish community for many years ... but he didn't create Hillel alone. He needed a team to bring it into reality ... Just like you need a team of family and friends to raise you and celebrate your birthdays. This morning couldn't pass without speaking his name and also those of the Ernest deSouza family, and all the Henriques and Matalon families. We have to mark this special occasion every year - Founders Day - to thank them, be extra thoughtful and honour them. The Board of the United Congregation of Israelites in 1968 and 1969 was the team that brought Hillel into being along with Rabbi Hooker – and are the roots of this school. We are still overseen by the current Board and our members, and Trustees on the Hillel Board, remain active in helping to guide the school. That connection is very alive today.

We look back at the years and say wow ... we can't believe we're **48!** Thanks. Those founding people are no longer here with us ... only in spirit ... but others have taken their places. And we say thanks to them and to all who take care of this school on all levels. So, on behalf of the Board of the UCI, I wish 'us' a very happy birthday. I wish us the wisdom and grace that should come with being 48 years old.

We refresh this morning our collective gratitude to the people who have gone before us and pray that the flame they ignited will continue to burn brightly. We refresh this

morning the fierce love of education that is so much a part of Jewish values and Jewish culture from days of old.

I pray that the Divine Light ... the Light of God shines here ... illuminating the heart of this school and the hearts in this school.

I am so happy to congratulate all of you who are present here this morning for continuing to write the history of Hillel Academy."



Cutting the birthday cake



(l-r) Margaret Adam (UCI Director), Nick Hazell (Hillel Director), Head Boy & Girl, Joseph Matalon (Board Chairman), Estelle Naude (PTA President), Heads of Prep & High



Hillel Orchestra plays the school song & National Anthem



TU B'SHEVAT

Thanks to the Shalom Hodara Family, Tu B'Shevav 2017 was all about planting bougainvilleas and palms in pots on our newly-paved car park on John's Lane. Nice to see those who joined in the planting ... and the fruity Kiddush after Shabbat evening service.



THE MACCABIAH CALLS JAMAICAN JEWS



Macabi Carasso

Idan is an emissary of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Maccabi World Union Organization and the Latin American Confederation of Maccabi in Chile. He arrived at Sha'are Shalom on Friday, February 24 to meet the community and introduce himself.

Macabi is a volunteer from Israel to the Maccabi World Union Organization who is in charge of the "Small Jewish Communities" all around the world on the behalf of this organization. He arrived later and knocked us off our feet on Saturday morning with his passionate presentation.



Idan Goldberg

Together, Idan & Macabi visit several small (and very small) communities around the region, in order to strengthen these communities and help them to confront the difficulties they experience by inviting them to participate in a lot of regional and continental projects of our continental confederation (CLAM), and especially in the 20th **Maccabiah Games** that will take place in Jerusalem between July 4 & 18 2017.

The negotiations began ... keeping fingers crossed that we'll have UCI representation this year in Israel. And ... from now on every 4 years!



Lunch meeting with the Board



Nadav Goren & Idan



Shalom & Israel



Israel Pinchas & Macabi



PURIM

by Rose Keller



Baruch, Emma, Joshua, Terry



Mika, Saber & Tiffany



Rose



Eva & Uncle Shalom



Gabby Hussey



Gabby Rennalls



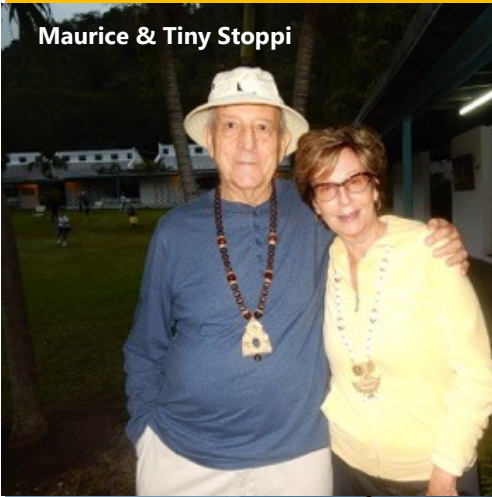
Alexander Hussey

This year's Purim celebration for participating members and guests of Shaare Shalom was held at the Hillel Academy...and a festive occasion it was. Although the Torah teaches us to avoid "magic" and ungodly spirits, we are also reminded in the story of Esther that not everything is always what it seems or appears to be. While reading the Megillah, Elohim is never mentioned in the story and yet we still can detect His presence if we are conscious of Him beneath the surface of all that takes place.

I believe that our Elohim has endowed each of us with gifts - the potential to become skilled in a particular craft or ability. It is not "magic" if one practices and hones their special ability/gift for the benefit and/or enjoyment of others. This is exactly what Kemarch Dodd, the **Wizard Magician**, who was featured at the Purim gathering has done. To everyone's amazement he entertained us in a way that seemed like magic because he was so skilled in the art of deception. I paid very, very close attention even shielding my eyes from the glare of the overhead fluorescent lights and yet rather than discovering how a trick was accomplished I found myself totally enthralled by his display. Kemarch engaged his audience with his charm and elicited help up on stage to everyone's delight, including the participants. I love a good mystery...and our Elohim is mysterious in all His ways and can surprise us when we are least expecting to be surprised...just like in the story of Esther...and as performed on this day of Purim 2017 in the month of Adar.

Hope you all had a Happy Purim. Shalom.

... Things aren't always what they seem ...



Maurice & Tiny Stoppi



Norma & Brian Haddad



Mikel



Stephen

Wizard Magician Dodd



Benji



Ilan Goren



Megillah Reading



Asher & Shalom Hodara, Percy Hussey

PESACH SEDER



Grandpa Douglas Reid & Saber



We were happily bursting at the seams this year with well over 100 folks leaning in for the Passover Seder at the Heritage Centre. With Marc Goodman anchoring the Haggadah and Siri Saunders catering the dinner, this night was definitely different from all other nights. Thanks to everyone for all the participation with the reading and singing ... and the Exodus vibes. Next year in Jerusalem! ... failing that, perhaps a hotel.



AMBASSADOR SABAN

69TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

Minister Kamina Johnson - Smith, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Dean of the Consular Corps, Ministers of Government, Leader of the Opposition, other members of the Government and Opposition, Members of the Jewish Congregation in Jamaica, Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow Israelis, and may I really say Friends all.

It is always a pleasure for me to visit Jamaica. As most of you know I have to live in the Dominican Republic. To get here takes two flights in and then two flights home, but nevertheless Jamaica is becoming for me a very special place.

To be serious, on behalf of my Government I wish to bring to your attention our appreciation of both the response to the invitation of our Prime Minister and the growing interest in what we can offer each other as democratic nations.

Over these past months the increase in visitations, in delegations moving between us is remarkable. Do not think that this is a one sided experience. While from Israel we can offer technical advice we too are learning what you here are experiencing. These experiences are also for our benefit as the knowledge assists us to research and solve problems for humankind as we go forward together.

Let me digress for a moment and thank the Jamaican people for the hospitality that has been offered to our flagship shipping company Zim for the use of the magnificent Kingston Harbour port facilities. This has been ongoing for a long time and may I wish that it continue. Similarly the Ashtröm Company has been engaged in construction for so long that we now consider this a Jamaican company with some Israeli staff.

Back to the future, that statement of course, is an oxymoron.

In Israel as a small nation, just over twice your size, and with little natural resources, we have had to become creative. It is in certain of these areas that we are working with you. Water is a problem for both of us, we have little so we have to find ways to both recycle and create water. You have much but need better ways to use what you have. This is one area of cooperation.

We both have security problems, and if I were to boast, we have much more than what you have. This is another area of cooperation.

Over many years we have worked on and off with you in agriculture. We are looking together for further ways to improve our relationships.

Our technology is amazing. As an older Israeli I have to admit it blows my mind. It is the field of medical advances that we are hoping that we can share to help to save more lives. Our recent achievements, say over these past fifteen years, with our Start Up Nation initiatives have generated results have been outstanding. Our technology is there for you to use and even improve. These are some of the hopes and desires of both our Governments.

I could be more expansive but we are here to mingle and enjoy each other's company. There will be other times for more serious conversation. So may I say as I raise my glass to a wonderful and friendly people, Jamaicans all, and repeat our toast - l'Chaim, to life.

SEKEL

by Ainsley Henriques

The uncertainties prevailing in our world today are both exciting and frightening, more so the latter. Whither goest us in Jamaica?

An analysis by continent and even by islands in the sun, show little prospect of peace, of stable economies and or escape from rising sea levels. So what about us in Jamaica? Actually the prospects are positive. Let us examine ourselves and what we can expect.

First, we enjoy a stable democracy with two viable political parties both committed to this stability and to the betterment for our people. Yes, there is still too much apparent corruption but there are efforts to curtail this as best as possible.

Second, we have an improving educational system but lack the ability to create the opportunities for those who are qualifying from the system. This failure requires urgent attention in establishing a public/private sector partnership, not just for employment but for creating future managers, entrepreneurs, professionals and the like in all fields. These are sacrifices that we did not make adequately before and are needed to be made now.

Third, without growth, our economy will soon be facing the edge of the default cliff from which we were so narrowly led back from with those sacrifices that we really cannot make again. Growth has to be achieved by production by all, not by just a few, by providing the incentives and resources, not

just money, to all those ready to invest their time and effort here at home.

Fourth, yes, crime is a deterrent to production and to the economy in general. This condition is solvable with innovative social programs such as placing the unemployed "out of schoolers" into programs comprised of both training and work cohorts, regardless of their social class.

Fifth, we have to generate the understanding that we must cooperate much more with each other. We are really all we have to depend on. Cooperation with each other is what we have to make work for our mutual benefit and success.

Can the dwindling membership of the United Congregation of Israelites lead in this regard?

Nuff said, try it nuh?



CONSULATE OF ISRAEL

There has been a resurgence of interest and exchanges between Jamaica and Israel over the past months. This cooperation has resulted from the Jamaican Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness accepting the Israeli Prime Minister, the Hon. Benjamin Netanyahu's invitation to visit Israel. The visit took place and has been considered a huge success.

Since this event there have been two delegations visiting Jamaica, the last led by the Israeli Ambassador to Jamaica, Ambassador Daniel Saban. Much is expected over the coming months and years from these initiatives in both directions.

Important dates:

- Apr 24 Nisan 28: *Yom HaShoah/ Holocaust Memorial Day*
- May 1 Iyar 5: *Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day)*
- May 2 Iyar 6: *Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence Day)*
- May 24 Iyar 28: *Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day)*

Israel's Day of Independence will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, May 9 this year.

The Shalom Club is to be resuscitated. All who have visited Israel are welcome to be registered. Please reply with your name and e-mail address. You are also welcome to add the names of friends who you may wish to include in this initial electronic gathering to ainsley@cwjamaica.com.

CONGRATULATIONS! Mudahy Family Shabbat rocks Patrick turns 80



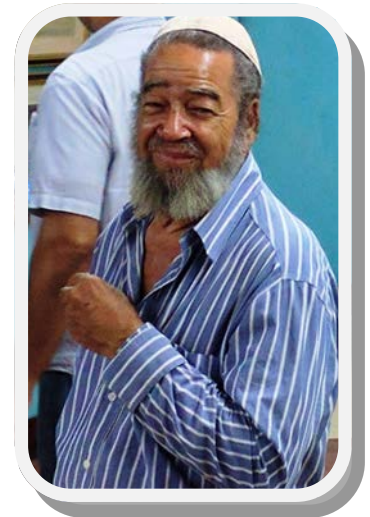
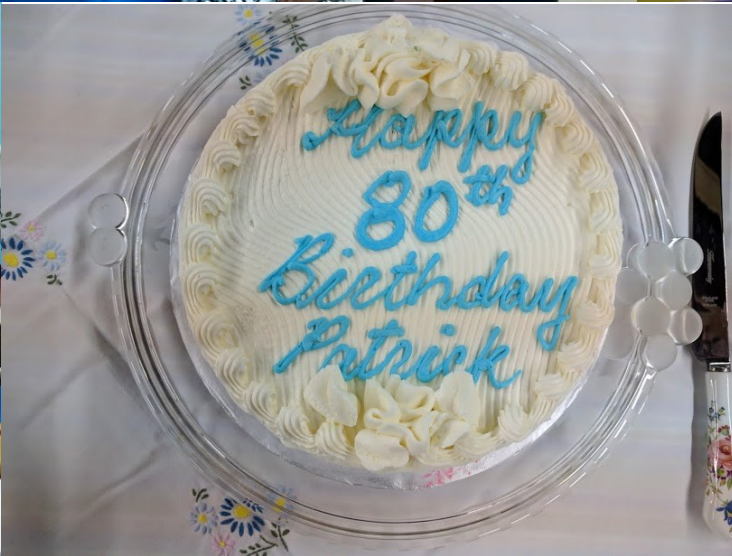
David Mudahy



Francis (daughter), Patrick & Maggie



The Mudahy Family Kiddush



Ms. Marguerite Harris doesn't miss the mark ...



Ladies Sporting Clays Champion 3 years in a row



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ISRAEL!



Shavtai, Ruben, Nancy, Norma Haddad & Israel

Prime Minister Andrew Holness visits Israel



Rabbi Raskin

**NATIONAL AWARD: HONORARY
Mr. Marvin David Goodman for
Outstanding Contribution in the
field of Architecture**



STAR CLUB NEWS

**Thank you Geoffrey Haddad
for the gift of signed copies of
“If I’m not Back by Wednesday—
Trapped in Jamaica’s Blue Mountains”
for Star Clubbers**



Eva & Baruch



Hebrew Alphabet placemats for Eva, Baruch, Gabby & Toby



Matzah Pizza Feast & crafts

**CALL OUT THE ARMY!
IF I’M NOT BACK BY WEDNESDAY**

Illustrations by Patrick Kitson (artist/musician)



“... the author dissects the minutiae of the trip—the rations—as well as the psyches of the teenagers who walked the miles. By the end, the hills of Jamaica seem as imposing and remote as the Himalayas. An engaging memoir of mishaps and survival in the Caribbean — *Kirkus Reviews*

‘Personalized Colour Photo Editions’ at:
www.geoffreyhaddadbooks.com
NOW ALSO AVAILABLE ON AMAZON



A mezuzah for the Knights’ home



Friendly Lodge #239 honours David K.C. Henriques (4th from left) on his **60th Anniversary** in the lodge. Pictured here are (l-r): Stephen Henriques, Errol Ziadie, Douglas Reid, David & Anthony Phillipps ... all brethren of the Friendly Lodge.

Proud

Dr. Terry Hall-Knight presented a lecture on Chronic Disease Management in HIV Positive Patients at the Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference.

United Congregation of Israelites

Regular Sabbath Services:

Fridays at 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Where can you find us?
Sha'are Shalom
92 Duke Street, Kingston
shaareshalom@cwjamaica.com
922-5931

Abigail Eve DePass arrived on March 1, 2017 in Florida.

Granddaughter for Geoffrey & Pat, daughter for Geoff & Sarah, sister for Mikey & Zachary

Emma Samantha Crichton, M.D., M.P.H.

General Surgery—Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
M.P.H. in Public Health, 2017, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL
B.A. in Psychology, 2012, New York University, New York, NY

MAZEL TOV!



Andrew Paul Matalon & Carina Max-Brown are engaged!

May his Memory be for a Blessing ...
George Ashenheim
January 27, 2017

CAUGHT

ON CAMERA



Thanksgiving & blessings for Erica & Paul Cooper



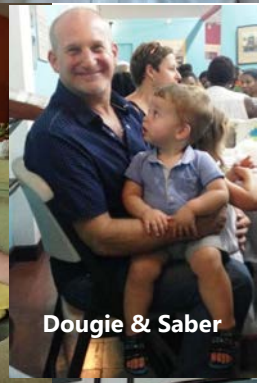
President Paul Matalon



Paul Henriques



Evelyn & Judy at Mussar event



Dougie & Saber



Brothers: (above) Robert & David Henriques (below) Asher & Benjamin Hodara



Costumed Patrick

Ido



The Pinchas family of tri-athletes