

Effort sows the seeds for recovery in Haiti

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There's an urgent need for seeds in [Haiti](#). The "Seeds for Haiti" program is in the midst of an emergency initiative to get bean and corn seeds for Haitian farmers. The country lost most of its crops and livestock to hurricanes, tropical storms and subsequent floods last year.

"Seeds for Haiti" organizers, from the Bassin Zim Educational and Development Fund, say the goal is to raise \$115,000 to buy seeds for about 5,000 Haitian peasant farmers for the upcoming agricultural season, which starts in April. Bassin Zim officials said corn and beans were chosen because of their relatively short growing cycle and affordability.

The seed drive is seeking donations to cover the purchase, transportation and distribution of seeds. The seeds are not "an outright gift but a loan; each peasant family will return an equal amount of seeds after the harvest to a seed bank that would be available to other families at the next planting season," said the organizers.

The seeds will go to farmers in the areas most affected by the 2008 storms and their aftermath. Bassin Zim has partnered with Mouvman Peyisan Papaye (MPP) and its network of peasant associations for the distribution and oversight of the operation in Haiti.

For information, visit <http://seedsforhaiti.org> online, send e-mail to seeds@seedsforhaiti.com or call (917) 378-2192.

Sandals gives to community

[Sandals Resorts International](#), which has consistently contributed to community causes since its founding in 1981, has started the new [Sandals Foundation](#) to increase the effort.

On Wednesday in [Jamaica](#), Sandals will unveil the executive board and goals of the new foundation, which was created to formally raise funds to improve education, and aid environmental and community projects in the [Caribbean](#). The Sandals Foundation will accept applications for funding from not-for-profit projects and organizations or individuals. For information and funding applications, send e-mail to foundation@grp.sandals.com. For more on the foundation, visit www.sandalsfoundation.org.

Homeowner help

A community forum providing homeowners with information on city water, sewer and tax bills will be held in [Queens](#) Thursday, said [City Councilman Leroy Comrie \(D-Queens\)](#).

Representative of the city's Department of Finance, Environmental Protection and Department of Housing Preservation and Development will be on hand to answer questions about unpaid taxes, liens and other topics at the event, which will be held at their office at 144-06 94th Ave., in Jamaica, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call Comrie's office at (718) 776-3700 for information.

Spotlight on Shadow

The many contributions of the calypsonian Shadow will be the subject of a free symposium on March 27 at [Medgar Evers College's](#) School of Professional and Community Development, at 1637 Bedford Ave., (between Crown and Carroll Sts.) in [Brooklyn](#), from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The [Trinidad and Tobago Folk Arts Institute](#) is presenting the session along with the college's [School of Professional and Community Development](#).

[St. John's University](#) art history professor [Lawrence Waldron](#), musical arranger [Frankie McIntosh](#), educator and author [Winthrop Holder](#), and Everybody's magazine publisher [Herman Hall](#), who is also Shadow's business manager, are among those scheduled to take part in the event. Call (718) 783-6161 for information.

High-profile visits to Haiti

[United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon](#) and a [UN Security Council](#) delegation traveled to Haiti last week to garner support for the nation and encourage international aid for recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Ban was accompanied by former [President Bill Clinton](#), musician-activist [Wyclef Jean](#) (whose Yele Ayiti foundation works in Haiti) and potential investors and representatives of nongovernmental organizations.

In addition to showing support for economic improvements, the Security Council delegation planned to meet with lawmakers, Haitian president [Rene Preval](#) and election officials before long-delayed Senate elections are held on April 19.

Reggae Sunday focuses on Perry

Brooklyn's Lox Lounge will host a "Tribute to Lee (Scratch) Perry" starting tonight at 9.

The event, featuring music of the [Grammy award](#)-winning reggae and dub artist, is part of a series of Sunday shows. International Reggae Night will be held on March 22, and a tribute to famed reggae rock steady performer [Ken Boothe](#) will take place on March 30.

The Lox Lounge is at 15 Putnam Ave.(between Grand and Fulton Sts.). Admission for the Lee (Scratch) Perry tribute is \$10; patrons who RSVP will be admitted free before midnight. To RSVP, send an e-mail with your name to rsvp@reggaesundays.com or call (718) 930-1316.

[St. Lucia](#) site needs writers, photogs

The St. LuciaWeek.com Web site, which will soon debut, is seeking photographers in St. Lucia, [New York](#) and [Canada](#) and nonpaid writers to cover St. Lucian events. For information, send e-mail to StLuciaWeek@gmail.com.

Update on Jamaica

Jamaica's consulate in New York will be presenting a "Meet and Greet" event in Queens on Friday to update its country's nationals on a wide range of topics.

The affair will be held at Clippers II Lounge, 234-36 Merrick Blvd. in [Laurelton](#), from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Attendees will get information on the new [Caricom](#) passports, the Jamaica Diaspora Movement, youth leadership initiatives and activities at the consulate at the Meet and Greet, hosted by [Jose Richards](#) of the Sons and Daughters of Jamaica organization.

The event is being held in conjunction with the Jamaican Diaspora N.E., JAMPACT, and the Union of Jamaican alumni Associations ([USA](#)).

For information and to RSVP, call (212) 935-9000, ext. 20 or 21.

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