

SANKOFA VIII set for Black History Month

Sankofa is the major event for Black History Month produced by Liberty Hall: The Legacy of Marcus Garvey. 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the UNIA - ACL

and Liberty Hall will host its eighth annual all day educational Sankofa symposium, under the theme: "Building Self-Identity and Self-Reliance among People of African Descent through the Activities and Enterprises of Garvey's UNIA - ACL." The event is set to take place at the Jamaica Conference Centre on Thursday, February 27, commencing at 9 a.m. "Through the number of students who visit Liberty Hall to view the Marcus Mosiah Garvey Multimedia Museum and use the Garvey Research/ Reference Library, we saw that there was a need for an educational event that would expose Jamaican youths to the research of advanced scholars of Caribbean / African History. This exposure will not only assist with their preparation for examinations, but will also enable their personal intellectual development," informed Dr. Donna McFarlane, Director/Curator of Liberty Hall. Student Teachers are specially invited to the event this year as the sessions will explore "Lessons for Teachers in the Twenty First Century." Presenters for the symposium include: Dr. Joyce King; Dr. Kadamawe Knife and Dr. Owen Brown. Sankofa was conceived in 2005 as a programme to cater to students pursuing History and Caribbean Studies in preparation for the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE). Students of colleges and universities (including Teacher's Colleges) also benefit from the exhibitions and films related to Caribbean and African History, which form part of the experience. The name "Sankofa" is taken from a well known Adinkra symbol from Ghana, which features a bird looking backwards. Sankofa articulates the need to look to the past in order to take lessons for the present and future.