

ERITAJ CHRONICLE

A newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti

January/February 2003

Eritaj Foundation
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www.eritajfoundation.org
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eritajfoundation@msn.com

Win a free round trip ticket to Haiti

Enter our drawing with only \$25 and win a round trip ticket to Haiti. Winner will be announced at the January 19 event. Call 508-881-8159 for details.

Healing Hands for Haiti

Providing rehabilitation, medical care, and service

Healing Hands for Haiti Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to providing rehabilitation, medical care, and service to the people of Haiti. The foundation began with the idea that changing the life of one person is the first step toward making the world a better place for everyone. With each step, we are constructing a foundation for a permanent rehabilitation hospital in Haiti. In a country where hope for a better life can be dim, the foundation has brought hope to the lives and hearts of people who never knew such hope existed.

Healing Hands for Haiti has treated thousands of adults and children in the cities of Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes. We provide training for clinicians and care givers who currently are the only source of care for Haiti's disabled population. We have the capability to



fabricate artificial limbs for amputees, and will continue our efforts to train local technicians in the fabrication of these devices.

Our volunteer team consists of physicians, therapists, nurses, social workers, orthotists, prosthetists, translators, and support personnel, who are experts in physical rehabilitation, and share a common goal of providing and teaching rehabilitative

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Douvan Jou Pou Ayiti

Cultural Event featuring

Emeline Michel &

The best Haitian artists of Boston:

Gifrants, Tontongi, Charlot Lucien, Idi, Danielle L. George

January 19th, 2003 • 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hernandez Cultural Center

85 West Newton Street • Boston, Massachusetts

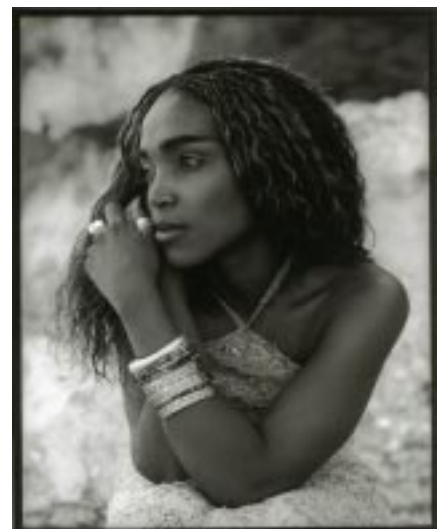
Donation: \$30

Food service provided by

Highland Cuisine, the finest Haitian restaurant in town

Seating is limited

Call (508) 881-8159 today to charge your credit card



Eritaj lost a friend

Professor James C. Thomson, who guided us from the outset of forming Eritaj, died last fall. Professor Thomson was an early critic of US involvement in the Vietnam War, before becoming Curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalists at Harvard University. As an adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Mr. Thomson was primarily a behind-the-scenes player in foreign policy debates, and played a couple of heroic roles, said Peter Rand, a novelist and the author of the book, *China Hands*.

Early in his career, Mr. Thomson interrupted his doctoral studies at Harvard to assist Adlai Stevenson in his second run for president. He wrapped up his career as a professor of interna-

tional relations, history and journalism at Boston University, where he joined the faculty in 1984. To the world, Professor Thomson was an academic and he said of himself: "think of me not as a journalist but as a 'journalizer'."

To us, he was a father figure, a friend, a wonderful husband to his late wife Diana, always there to support, guide, cheer and enlighten. When we shared the concept of the Youth Alliance project to send minority American youths to Haiti, he connected us with some of his eminent friends who generously supported our efforts. The James & Diana Thomson Education Fund that provides scholarship to disadvantaged children in Haiti was named to honor the Thomsons' work in education and compassion for the disenfranchised.

Healing Hands

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care. There are no practicing natives, and less than 10 foreign physical therapists, in the entire country. The lack of trained personnel means the vast majority of Haitians with disabilities get no treatment at all, even though minor treatments in the U.S. could leave these patients with almost no functional physical or social disability.

The overwhelming need for care givers, trained in physical, occupational, speech therapy, orthotics, prosthetics, rehabilitative medicine, and nursing is matched only by the continually growing need for materials and tools used to construct appropriate prosthetics and orthotics for upper and lower extremity amputations and musculoskeletal deformities and weakness. The fabrication of these artificial limbs, braces, and assistive devices dramatically change the lives of disabled Haitians and provide opportunities for many willing and able Haitians to receive the training they desire as potential caregivers.

To find out how you can support the vital work of Healing Hands in Haiti, visit our website at www.healinghandsforhaiti.org or contact:

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Phone:(801) 408-5407 eFax: (720) 862-2597
E-mail: ldsgleas@ihc.com

In Haiti: Healing Hands for Haiti
Foundation Clinic
Gina Ferrus Duncan, RN
Kay Kapab, Executive Director
40 Rue Babiole
Pacot, Port Au Prince
Phone: 011-509-245-2534, 011-509-260-5708
E-mail: hfhf@transnethaiti.com

Blood, Sweat and Tears: The Spirit of Survival 6th Annual Haitian Student Conference

The Haitian American Student Association (HASA) of UMass announces its sixth annual conference to take place on Friday, February 21, 2003 through February 23, 2003. The conference is a joint effort of five community colleges, hosted mainly on the UMass Campus in Amherst.

Five different workshops include:

- ❖ Immigration -examine unfairness and discriminatory US immigration policies toward Haiti
- ❖ Sexism in Haitian culture -address women's roles in Haitian politics
- ❖ "Restavek" Haitian Creole for "live with" -analyze present day form of slavery in Haiti. A recent United Nations study contends that 300,000 Haitian children are "Restavek". Jean-Robert Cadet, author of a famous book on this issue will facilitate this workshop.
- ❖ Haitian music - debate how American pop-culture has infiltrated into traditional Haitian music
- ❖ Haitian identity- explore the meanings of blackness and identity in the American context.

Questions or comments should be directed to Events Coordinator Frantzyne Monestime at 413-546-5926 or Public Relations Marvin Alcide at 413-546-2740.

Transparency is critical to improve appalling poverty in Haiti

Where is Haiti's Country Manager for the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria? Eritaj sent a solid proposal on behalf of over 35 non-profit, grassroots organizations to the Global Fund. The Global Fund responded with an positive letter asking us to resubmit through the Haiti Country Manager. They indicate Dr. Joelle Deas Van Onacker as the Country Manager in their letter, but their website points to Haitian President Aristide's wife, Mildred Trouillot, as holding that position. To date, we have been unable to determine and successfully reach the CCM.

Following is the letter sent to Dr. Joelle Deas Van Onacker at the Ministry of Public Health & Population in Haiti.

Dear Dr. Deas Van Onacker:
Last month we received a letter from the Global Fund disclosing your person as the CCM contact for Haiti. We were asked to resubmit the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education Program in Haiti (HAPEP) through your office.

We value the work of international organizations and foreign bodies in Haiti. We also recognize the necessity for Haitians to spearhead community projects and actions which will have greater impact to improving their own lives. It is a surefire way for them to have ownership of these undertakings and develop greater capacity.

The Eritaj Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to fostering human services development in Haiti, wants to ensure that funding for operation is available to Haitian

grassroot organizations at the bottom level.

We were advised by the Global Fund to apply through your office. Let us know of your parameters for proposal submission and how it could be done through your office. We have made numerous unsuccessful attempts to reach you on the phone. Do not hesitate to respond to this letter by calling (508)881-8159 or through email.

November- December Supporters:

David Butler	\$ 1500.00
Hua Anh	\$ 1000.00
CCHER	\$ 500.00
HAPHI	\$ 250.00
Rev. Brian & Mrs. Sarah Kelley	\$ 100.00
John Engle	\$ 100.00
Haitian United Inc.	\$ 100.00
James M. Ellison, MD	\$ 75.00
Charlot Lucien	\$ 50.00
Edwin G. Smith	\$ 50.00
Grace Church Mission	\$ 50.00
Midori Yoshii	\$ 30.00

In the Metrowest ... and beyond

"Santa For Me?" Eritaj's 2nd annual drive for Haiti

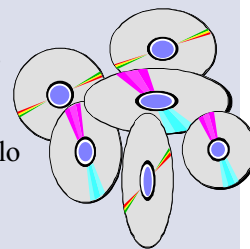


With unemployment at a soaring 80% high, most children are going hungry, are neglected and abused in the poorest country of the hemisphere. Last year, we collected hundred of toys with the endorsement of Ashland Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Hoffmann.

This year, Santa For Me has had an even a greater success than the previous one. We collected over 14 boxes of toys and children's clothes. We are pleased to partner with Easy Cargo, a maritime transport group, to facilitate sending the goods to Haiti. We thank all the parents and families who contributed to making our second annual drive a success!

Poverty Reduction with Jazz CDs available

The CDs have arrived! The Poverty Reduction Series depicts and builds on local assets to bring relief for Haiti while supporting our supporters' causes and areas of interests. Noted jazz performer Willie Sordillo produced a special CD for this program.



Two ways to support the Poverty Reduction with Jazz project:

- 1) For a \$50 or more tax-deductible donation, you will receive a complimentary copy of the CD
- 2) Through direct purchase of the CD from the Willie Sordillo (508-628-9204)

To reserve the CD, please send a check for \$17.00 (including postage and packaging costs) made out to Eritaj Foundation. Make sure to include your mailing address. You will receive a copy of the CD as soon as it is available.

For information about the Poverty Reduction with Jazz project, call (508) 628-9204.

Haitian American
United Haitian
Independence Day
Gala 2003

*Honor the Haitian
forefathers and celebrate
the 199th anniversary of the
victorious Haitian slave
revolution.*

Saturday, January 4, 2003
Lombardo's in Randolph
7:00 P.M. -- 12:00 A.M.

Guests: Josaphat Celestin,
Mayor of North Miami

John Borders, III, Minister of
Morning Star Baptist church

Carole Maroule, Carmel
Desgrottes, Henry Y. Joseph,
Arc-En-Ciel Dance Group

Boston Haitian Marching Band

Donation: \$65 per person,
\$120 per couple RSVP only!
Proceeds to benefit the Haitian
American Unity Parade 2003
For more information or to
reserve your seat:
contact: (617)298-2976 or
unity@hauincorg

Organizations/projects in Haiti

La Gonave

- Academy Foundation for Helping and Education in La Gonave
Silaire Enest
525 10th St. 513
Lake Park, FL 33403
(561) 863-8442
- Association Gonavienne pour le Development
Zachary Lexima
PO Box 2272
Roanoke, VA 24009
(540)344-7127

Limbe

- Pastor Abner Noel
True Gospel Mission
P.O. Box 681478
Miami, FL 33168
(786) 255-9393
www.truegospelmission.org

Gonaives

- Byenfanzans
Morelus & Jacqueline Gedeon
5900 Triphammer Road
Lake Worth FL 33463
(561) 649-8909
- Centre d'Accueil et de Support
Mercedes & Maxi Rouzard
(617) 361-8212
Haiti (509) 274-0826

Port au Prince

- Horizon de LEspoir
Kathelen Doyon
Haiti-(509) 244-4021
- Mercy & Sharing
Susan & Joseph Krabacher
(970) 925-1492

- Inst of Human & Community Dev
280 Humboldt Ave. Ste 5
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- Foyer Bon Samaritain
Yvette Bichotte
(Ben B. Menahem)
(508) 429-1358
- Bedette OASIS Project.
Mrs. Luceanna Altino-Moore
(908) 298-9272 lucem30@hotmail.com
- Hope for the Children of Haiti
50 Cross Street
Winchester, MA 01890
Marion Austin
(781) 729-3001

Maissade

Edem Foundation
Patrick Lucien
(508) 877-1695
www.edem2.org

Cap Haitien

- North Haiti Mission
Clint Goddard
(617) 361-2799
www.Northhaitimission.org

Plateau Central

- Centre Culturel Leocardie
Alexandre Kenscoff
Guerdes & Florienne Fleurant
(617) 547-2111
Haiti (509) 276-1758

Jacmel

- Hispaniola Fund
Jean E. Charles
(781) 963-6960

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