

## MetroWest & Beyond

❖ **The Haitian-American Community** of Boston, Massachusetts will be celebrating for the fifth consecutive year, the Haitian Heritage Month (May 1-31 2003) with a series of cultural events organized by the Haitian American United and other Haitian Organizations. Visit their website at [www.hauinc.org](http://www.hauinc.org) for a listing of these events.

❖ **Grassroot Coalition** to Support Haiti presents: "Haiti: 1804-2004, Deux Siecles de Liberte" on 16 May, 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. at the Great Hall in Godman Square, 637 Washington Street Dorchester. The program includes a presentation by Mathieu Lucius, from Haiti Sun Foundation and US Peace Corps, directly from Haiti "Grasrout Jefò Ozetazini: Yon Mouvmman Pou Delivre Ayiti?", snapshot of over 9 organizations working in the area of health, education, relief and development in Haiti, music and poetry of renowned Haitian artists of Boston and food. For additional information about this event call: CHEB: (617) 323-5793; CORENORD: (617) 335-1630; Friends of Fort Liberte

(617) 869-1186; Eritaj: (508) 881-8159

❖ **The Haitian Artists Assembly** of Massachusetts invites the friends of Haiti to a ceremony to commemorate the 200th year of Toussaint Louverture's death on May 4, 2003, 6-9PM at Faneuil Hall in Boston. For more information, please contact the Assembly at: (617) 276-3174 (781) 961-5855 (617) 868-1094.

❖ **Artists and groups in or from Haiti**, who utilize the arts to address HIV/AIDS and related concerns like poverty, hunger, lack of education and healthcare, especially in terms of education and prevention are sought to join an internet coalition. The coalition currently has representatives from 10 African countries and India, Pakistan, the Ukraine, Canada, Australia, the UK, Bangladesh, the Netherlands with more signing up weekly. For more information contact Janet Feldman, Director, KAIPPG/International at: [kaippg@earthlink.net](mailto:kaippg@earthlink.net)

❖ **President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's** demand from France to repay billions of dollars handed over by the first Black independent

nation in the 19th century for recognition of its independence has been rejected. Officials of the current government are hopeful that they will successfully obtain restitution. French Foreign Ministry spokesman Francois Rivasseau said France has redirected its aid to directly benefit Haiti's population, especially farmers. It is not evident how this aid has helped Haiti, today the poorest country of the Western Hemisphere. Aristide has reportedly put the sum owed by France at \$21.7 billion.

### March- April Supporters:

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Pour Haiti                    | \$1000 |
| Travis Merritt                | \$ 200 |
| Premiere Eglise de Washington | \$ 150 |
| Ellen Israel                  | \$ 60  |
| Vedette Merisma               | \$ 49  |
| Marc Prou                     | \$ 30  |
| B & M Phillips                | \$ 30  |
| Debbie Russell                | \$ 30  |

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Eritaj Foundation  
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Framingham, MA 01701

# ERITAJ CHRONICLE

A newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti

May/June 2003

Eritaj Foundation  
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Children supported by the Sun Foundation.

## Haiti Sun Foundation

Mathieu and Marie Lustha Lucius operate the Haiti Sun Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that provides assistance and sustainable development in agriculture, environment, health and education to rural and urban communities in Haiti. The organization was created with the strong belief that Haiti has many assets to improve the living conditions of its citizens. Haiti Sun Foundation makes capacity building one of its axis of intervention. At this level children are taken into consideration, as well as parents.

### Education:

Primary schools: we believe education is the backbone of a strong community. The Foundation is committed to assist with the education of underprivileged children. We assist children of poor families with school fees, books, uniforms, emergency health care

and supplemental nutrition. For this school year, 2002-2003, 15 children are being sponsored by HSF and more than 80 others are on our waiting list.

Business and Financial: Young

*"You may not be able to change the whole world, but you can change the world of one child."*

people have their minds set on getting jobs to be self-reliable in a system where jobs are not available. The national unemployment rate has been reported at 70% of the labor force. If they successfully complete high school and college, the possibility of finding a job is grim. We work to educate our youth on alternative strategies to become independent by offering education

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Donations to:  
Haiti Sun Foundation  
c/o Lynx Air  
P.O. Box 407139  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33340  
[mathieu\\_lucius@yahoo.com](mailto:mathieu_lucius@yahoo.com)

## Batey Relief Alliance Humanitarian Health Care Intervention in the DR

The Batey Relief Alliance [BRA Dominicana] operates inside the Dominican Republic as a coalition of 9 local member organizations - supported by Haitian, Dominican, Canadian and American government agencies and international groups, with the mission of helping to create a productive environment for impoverished people living in the bateys, including those identified as Haitian migrant workers and their families. Part of our work involves providing ongoing health care to more than 30,000 needy families annually through medical missions, our mobile health project and donations of drugs, supplies and equipment to our local member organizations. Key supporters like the Catholic Medical Mission, Order of Malta,

Lions Club International, Direct Relief International, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Kansas and private contributors are crucial and have helped make our humanitarian mission possible.

Last month, Executive Director, Ulrick Gaillard received a humanitarian award from the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad (AMHE) for his pioneering work in the Bateys. More than two hundred medical professionals and their spouses from all over the United States gathered in New York to celebrate their organization's 30th anniversary. The award officially symbolized perhaps the beginning of a fruitful partnership that started last year between BRA and AMHE when more than 17 Haitian physicians and assistants participated in

the BRA's medical mission in the bateys of the Dominican Republic. "This partnership is crucial not only because it helps bring desperately needed health care to impoverished Haitian migrant families, but it lifts the recipients' self-esteem and dignity knowing that they are being served by their own compatriots," said Ulrick Gaillard.

Much more must be done in the areas of health care, education and community development. This is why we are asking you and others to get involved with us through donations, partnerships and collaborations. For more information about BRA, contact Ulrick Gaillard at [bateyrelief@mindspring.com](mailto:bateyrelief@mindspring.com) or (917) 627-5026

[www.bateyrelief.org](http://www.bateyrelief.org)

## Sun Foundation *Continued from page one*

on small enterprise and business endeavor.

### Micro Loan Project:

While sharing the gospel of God with the children and their families, we also offer them a micro credit loan with training on small business management to help them carry out successfully their retail enterprises. The emphasis is on teaching how to catch fish and not to give a fish every day. This project helps to ensure the sustainability of our efforts.

It's also about managing their own lives financially: controlling their expenses, knowing the differences between earned income, passive income and portfolio income and thinking about increasing the latter two. All of this is through tailored games conceived by a specialist. It's a way of break-

ing the cycle of poverty for the generations to come).

### Agriculture and Environment:

Our goal is to increase agricultural production and small-scale farmers incomes while protecting the environment from an asset-based approach. More than ten years of experience in intensive development work of this organization's co-founder has helped to develop good relationships with dozens of grass root organizations throughout the country.

### Funds management:

Haiti Sun Foundation is a partner of the National Heritage Foundation based in Falls Church, Virginia. National Heritage is helping with the management of funds, collect donations, grants and oversee disbursements.

### Sponsorship Program:

Over 33 percent of Haiti's children do not have access to school, either public or private. Many parents stop sending their children to school because they just can't afford to pay tuition. Our child sponsorship rate is \$20.00 a month or \$200.00 a year. With this small amount, for 55 cents a day (less than a cup of coffee), you will provide the basics needs for a child to thrive, such as an education, medical care, vocational training emergency food and vitamins. Certainly, any contribution is greatly appreciated. All donations are tax deductible. You will receive a letter of verification for your records of donations under \$250.00 or a receipt directly from the NHF for any donation of \$250.00. For online donations go to <http://www.nhf.org/>, and then go to "donate to a foundation" and enter "Haiti Sun".

## Groupe Médialternatif: Promoting and defending right to communicate in Haiti

The Groupe Médialternatif (Medialternatif Group), an association made up of mass communication professionals and members from related disciplines, promotes the creation and exchange of alternative information and communication spaces in a way that expresses respect for human rights and free expression. The organization uses books, newspapers, audio and video cassettes, CD-ROM, and mass media and communication resources in an effort to provide integral, documented, diverse, and decentralized information.

Groupe Médialternatif produces, disseminates, and publishes information, as well as media, educational, cultural, and public interest materials; it takes part in the creation of media spaces and means of communication while promoting reflection on the challenges that are inherent in communications.

The Group conducts public and social communication activities and provides services in these media:

radio, TV, and written and electronic press consulting. The organization conceives of, writes, and produces radio and TV and other audiovisual resources, in addition to graphics. These informative materials are meant to raise awareness and educate their readers, in part through a focus on genres. It also conceptualizes and conducts social-educational campaigns in addition to technical training in communication.

Groupe Medialternatif has created at the end of 2001 an information agency named AlterPresse. The AlterPresse site is a source of information on political, economic, social, and cultural processes, and on the role-players involved in these processes: social movements, community associations, promotion and defense of human rights organisms, development organizations, research and non-formal educational institutions and universities.

It also plays a role in circulating information among Haitians abroad (over 2 million citizens constituting one fourth of the total national population) and the Haitians living in their own country.

The agency is particularly interested in gender equity, women leadership, local participation, supportive economy, proper technologies, food assurance, sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, traditional medicine, children's rights, responsible paternity, and alternative and popular communication.

**Groupe Médialternatif / AlterPresse**  
**Delmas 43 # 14 A**  
**B.P.19211, Rue Capois,**  
**Port-au-Prince, Haiti, HT6112**  
**Tel.: (509) 5541882, 5563403,**  
**2491011**  
**E-mail :**  
**"mailto:gm@medialternatif.org"**  
**Site : "http://**  
**www.medialternatif.org"**

## Haiti Solidarity Week Conference

Each year, Haiti Reborn dedicates the first week of March to inform people in the U.S. about the current situation in Haiti. This annual event is called Haiti Solidarity Week (HSW) and every year we select a different theme. HSW took place on March 2-9, 2003, and the theme was "Let Haiti Live! Kite Ayiti Viv!" For the first time ever, Haiti Reborn coordinated and opened the week with Haiti Solidarity Week (HSW) First Annual Conference on March 4, 2003, in Washington, DC. The conference brought together more than 60 activists and concerned individuals that

traveled from various places, to hear true stories from people working for justice in Haiti. This conference entitled "How to Organize on Haiti" explored the following topics: HIV/AIDS Pandemic, Human Rights issues, Debt (Haiti's external debt), Migration and the Let Haiti Live Campaign. Haiti Reborn takes its hat off before all of our friends and colleagues from Haiti and the U.S. who did such a marvelous job presenting the various topics. The conference followed by a small vigil at the Ellipse Park next to the White House. Haiti faces many challenges and everyone at the vigil and conference was reminded that we in the United States have the ability

and responsibility to give a voice to the Haitian people. Haiti Reborn would like to thank Howard University's Haitian Student Association for hosting the conference and all the volunteers and translators who made this conference a success. For more information about HSW upcoming event next year and the Let Haiti Live Campaign please contact Eugenia Charles-Mathurin, Haiti Reborn/Quixote Center, P.O. Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782, e-mail [eugenia@haitireborn.org](mailto:eugenia@haitireborn.org), call 301-699-0042 or visit [www.haitireborn.org](http://www.haitireborn.org).