

ERITAJ CHRONICLE

A newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti

November/December 2005

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Eritaj Outreach to Bring Youth Cultural Exchange Program to Latin American

Fifteen hundred women from Latin America and the Caribbean met in Serra Negra, Sao Paulo this past October. The 10th of its kind, the encounter sought to strengthen solidarity and collaborative activities in the region. Various women of all walks of life and from numerous organizations, of over 17 countries met in small and large groups to debate, network, campaign and develop cross organizational work teams. The groups unraveled issues of diversity as an ideal and a problem, feminism, and movements of black, native, lesbian and young women.

As a first time participant, the Eritaj representative was pleased to hear some voices on behalf of Haiti. The country's language heritage has in this case, increased its isolation within the Western hemisphere. The Eritaj Foundation had contemplated from the outset, how to help bridge this unfortunate gap by encouraging greater exchanges between youth from neighboring countries through cultural exchanges (Ref. archives: Metrowest Newspaper article, Youth Alliance with Caribbean Peers or first Eritaj Chronicle publication).

The current significant presence of Brazil in Haitian politics may offer a good



Mirlande, 3rd from right, with newly made friends in Brazil. (Visit our website for more pictures of the kind.)

opportunity and a timely momentum to implement such exchanges. Our organization's participation in the encounter aimed to assess the feasibility of developing collaborative work with prospective organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The language gap will need to be overcome effectively to achieve this pursuit.



MetroWest and Beyond

Boston Haitians Meet to devise Stronger Community Plan

A group of 100 Haitians from all walks of life convened on Friday, November 18th, from 5:30 to 9 PM and on Saturday, November 19th from 8:30 AM to 5PM with the commitment to develop a comprehensive action plan for the Haitian Community of Greater Boston. The goal of the conference is to discover a common ground for the future of the Haitian Community, reach for unity from our diversity, and develop strategies for a proactive, cohesive and responsive community action plan for the betterment of our community. The work of the conference is based on the assumption that the future doesn't just happen. The future results from what we do or don't do today. While we are celebrating Vertieres on November 18th, we will join together to create the strategies and action steps needed to improve the standing of Haitians in the Greater Boston area.

Musicoziles: Friends from Switzerland organize 3rd concert

The group presented the third fundraising event in Switzerland for Eritaj with local artists. Many volunteers helped with the planning phase, and during the day of the festival. The first 2 shows were organized on September 2003 and 2004, at "Les Iles" in Switzerland (from which the name of the festival was derived). We were pleased to present a the third show recently to support Eritaj's work in Haiti. We would like to thank all the members of the organizing team and every one who helped us or attended the event. For Musicoziles, Celine Dubas December 2005 Betrisey Jennifer, Dubas C line, Pfammatter Vincent, Rentmeister Michael, Roduit Axel, Claivaz

Haitian-Americans United, Inc. announces its 5th Annual Haitian Independence Day Gala, honoring Haiti's ancestors and commemorating the 202nd anniversary of the proclamation of Haiti's independence on Saturday, January 7, 2006 at the Lombardo's in Randolph, MA, 7: 00 P.M.– 12:00 A.M. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Carole M. Berotte Joseph, President Mass Bay Community College; Entertainment provided by Leon Dimanche, Marie Mirca Tangar-Cayemite, Boston Haitian American Marching Band & Troupe Arc-en-Ciel. Honorary Award Recipient: US Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Linda Dorcena Forry, State Representative, Curtis Henderson, BNN-TV Executive Director Donation: \$65 per person, \$120 per couple RSVP only! Proceeds to go to the Haitian-Americans United, Inc.; For more information and to reserve your seat, please contact (617)- 298-2976; hauinc.org; www.hauinc.org

Introducing FocusHaiti.org

Focus Haiti is an internet-based network of humanitarian aid, relief, development and mission, organizations focused on improving the living conditions for the people of Haiti. Focus Haiti is designed to help its members work together for the common good of Haiti's eight million people; facilitate networking and the sharing of information and best practices among peer organizations and enhance each member's effectiveness and ability to speak out and influence policy. Membership entitles your organization to unlimited access to the Focus Haiti Member Directory, Bulletin Board Discussion Group, Seminar and Job Opening postings and weekly Haiti News Updates. To join Focus Haiti, simply visit www.focushaiti.org.

Eritaj Partner Organizations Distribute Plants in Gonaives

On Wednesday September 28th 2005, a team of eight individuals from various Eritaj Partner Organizations went to Gonaives to distribute 1200 trees to elementary and high schools in the city. Hurricane Jeanne nearly destroyed the city last year, killing thousands and shattering the lives of hundreds of thousands. The tree donation is part of an ongoing effort of the Eritaj Foundation in collaboration with churches, other local organizations, funding institutions and the civil society, to help rebuild Gonaives. 95% of the population reportedly rely on cut trees as the main source of energy with no serious replanting.

The distribution process has been meticulously planned and a successful mobilization of the population brought a crowd of people. Unfortunately, there weren't enough plants to give to every one. Most of the trees donated were fruit trees, as it is vital to have trees that can provide food for the population in addition to the protection of the fauna and flora. The group seized the opportunity to conduct small group education on infectious diseases, malaria and water contamination. As Jean Edwith Magloire, Executive Director of CHAPO puts it, the event was just a drop in the bucket. Much more focused action plan is needed to help curb the suffering and poverty in Haiti.

Supporting Women's Leadership in Haiti

By Ashley Allen*, Program Associate for the Americas, Global Fund for Women

"Haiti survives the daily struggle against misery, illness, and hunger through the courage of its warrior people, the unselfish solidarity of others, and the support of feminist and mixed-gender organizations." – Dr. Marie Agathe Jean Baptiste, Director of Fanm Mouvman Peyizan Papay

Founded in 1987, the Global Fund for Women is committed to advancing the human rights of women in every part of the world. The organization was started by three women who wanted to direct funds to international women's rights organizations. While they had great vision, they had little money, so they turned to 31 individuals who each gave \$5,000. In our first year, we made 7 grants totaling \$22,000. Since then we have raised and awarded over \$45 million to 2,800 women's groups in 162 countries.

Trust, respect, and flexibility are core principles that guide our grantmaking. By trust, we mean that we believe that women themselves know best how to define the needs and priorities of their communities. By respect, we mean that we honor the knowledge and capabilities of the organizations we support to make lasting change. To exercise flexibility we provide general support grants that can be used for any purpose the organization sees fit. The Global Fund for Women accepts proposals from groups at any time, in any language, in any format.

Since 2003, we have prioritized the expansion of grantmaking, and the cultivation of relationships, in the Caribbean. In April 2005, we held a meeting in Santiago, Chile that brought together activists from 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Among the attendees

were Dr. Jean Baptiste (quoted above), and Marie Nikette Lorm us of Organisation de Defense des Droits des Femmes (ENFOFANM). Attendees emphasized that supporting Haiti should be a top priority for the Global Fund because Haitian women face grave challenges, such as lack of access to education, health care, and arable land for agriculture.

Global Fund grantees such as Fanm MPP and ENFOFANM are working tirelessly to address these issues. Fanm MPP, the women's section of the Mouvman Peyizan Papay (the oldest peasant organization in the country) was the first women's group formed to share ideas, human and material resources, and take action to improve the lives of Haitian people. In addition to developing cooperatives and collective businesses of women, they are currently training female health promoters to provide reproductive health services and sexual education for other women in the community. ENFOFANM was founded in 1987 to defend the

rights of Haitian women and promote their participation in Haiti's development. The group explains that democracy is not possible without gender equity and an informed populace. The group organizes and collaborates with other organizations to run debates and seminars throughout Haiti and the Caribbean regarding gender equity and reproductive rights. In addition, ENFOFANM has produced radio programs and is planning television programs in the coming year to further publicize feminist ideals and issues.

We are deeply heartened that women in Haiti are organizing to bring to life their country's national creed: "L'Union Fait La Force" and we are honored to support their courageous efforts. For more information, visit www.globalfundforwomen.org/3grant.

**Ana Mar'a Enr'quez and Sande Smith also contributed to this article.*

Our Churches, Our Strength

Sister Church Needed for Baptiste Union Church

Cantave Jackelin directs the Eglise Baptiste Union Fraternelle and a primary school in Grand Kay, a zone of Port au Prince. The church would like to provide a space for orphans to live, finish the school building, and secure financial support for sustainable operations. Contact Jean M. Saintil at jeanmsaintil@townlinks.net to develop a fraternal, faith-based relationship with this church.

"Tout chretien authentique a un role important a jouer dans les domaines de l'education, de l'economie et de la spiritualite en Haiti. Les pasteurs ont un travail enorme a effectuer vis -a-vis de cette nation. Notre tache principale est de nous donner tout entier pour promouvoir la propagation de l'evangile de Jesus, le Christ. Nous sommes aussi convaincus que nos auditeurs ont besoin de la nourriture physique afin qu'il y ait equilibre avec celle qui vivifie abondamment, comme Jesus qui nourrissait une foule nombreuse avec la parole de vie et aussi au moyen des poissons et du pain. Rev. Cantave Jackelin P.O. Box 765, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Tel: 413-5119

Diskou Bataille de Vertiere by E. W. VEDRINE

Excerpted: Read complete document and English version at: <http://www.palli.ch/~kapeskreyol/bibliographie/vedrine/vertie.php>

18 Novanm 1803, nou te gen yon sel bi: libere tet nou, kase chenn esklavay la, chenn ke Toussaint, Dessalines ak lot ewo ayisyen t ap eseye kase depi lontan. Jodiya, mwen sonje anko yon pawol seleb ke Toussaint te di l'frans yo te kidnape l: Ou rache pyebwa libete Nwa yo. L ap repouse atrave rasin li yo paske yo fon nan t'epi yo anpil.

Rasin sa yo ke Toussaint te mansyone yo akouche 18 Novanm 1803. Jodiya, si yo ta mande m: éske ou kontan? éske ou kontan pou selebre Bataille de Vertiere? éske ou kontan ak glwa Ayisyen gen lan listwa? éske ou kontan ak tit yo bay Ayiti kom Premye Repiblik Nwa nan lemond?. Repons mwen se wi ak non. Mwen di wi l' m sonje ewo ayisyen sa yo ki te pre pou sakrifye tet yo pou libere pep mwen ak peyi m, lem sonje Dessalines ki te di: "Nou dwe viv lib oubyen nou mourir". .. Nou paet sipoze gen grangou lakay nou, nou pa te sipoze gen ti Ayisyen k ap mande, domi nan lari; nou pat sipoze gen yon

to analfabet 85%, swen medikal pov. Nou te sipoze gen lekol gratis pou tout Ayisyen. Nou pa t sipoze gen Ayisyen k ap touye fre ak se yo san rezon.

Jodiya, mwen pa ka fye de peyi m le m w sa fre m yo fe 30 Septanm 1991. Mwen pa ka fye l pre ske dismil Ayisyen pedi lavi yo nan mwens pase dezan paske yo te vote yon kandida ke yo te chwazi. Mwen pa ka fye l em konnen lame a ak zenglendo ap pesekite pep mwen an, l atache ak zenglendo ap pesekite yo. Mwen pa ka fye lem we y ap riske vi yo nan gwo lanm pou eseye rive Miyami. Mwen pa ka fye le reken yo ap selebre paske pep mwen an ap kite peyi l. Mwen pa ka fye fason yo trete yo Guantanamo.

Mwen pa kontan fason yo trete yo aletranje. Mwen pa kontan fason lapres montre yo, chwazi yo kom bouk emise nan plizye sikonstans. Nou menm Ayisyen, nou soti lwen epi nou gen chemen long pou n pakouri toujou. Si Toussaint, Dessalines, Capois Lamort, Charlemagne Peralte te vivan jodiya, mwen pa panse yo t ap fye nonplis

Support Eritaj Programs

- Adopt a Child
\$120 full adoption; \$60 school tuition;
\$30 books & supplies
- Femmes en luttés
- Helping Hands
- Eritaj Chronicle

Method of payment:

1. Check or money order (to Eritaj Foundation, Inc.)

2. Credit card: Visa
MasterCard

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

pou jan Ayiti ye jodiya. Nou gen pou n travay di, nou bezwen edike, nou bezwen lite pou yon Dezyem Endepandans, lite pou rebran fyete nou nan listwa.

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