

ERITAJ CHRONICLE

A newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti

September/October 2003

Eritaj Foundation
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COGOC

An instrument for development and education in Plateau Central

COGOC was formed in Ducis in 1994, a federation of agricultural groups of approximately a hundred peasant organizations. COGOC currently counts 3,501 individuals as members. Globally its mission is to advocate for the benefit of its members. At the organizational level, it aims at transforming the associations into small agricultural capital cooperatives.

The core purposes of COGOC include:

- ❖ Modernizing of agricultural practices and stockbreeding
- ❖ Intensifying cultures
- ❖ Transforming products such as castor-oil, wine, juice and jam
- ❖ Organizing sale networks based on fair trade concept

COGOC is a vehicle of collective expression of our constituents' needs and an instrument to address them. The established structures will enable improvement in our quality of life. We will become increasingly confident in community organizing for the purpose of creating financial stability and building sustainability and grassroot organizers

Haitian women make castor-oil, wine, juice and jam



will have greater autonomy in decision making. COGOC provides regular trainings to educate its members.

A general assembly regularly takes place every year at the federation building at Dubreuil and the central committee is reelected every 3 years. COGOC plans to enlist peasant associations from 16 other cities of the South Department for integrated structure, thus sharing our resources and for mutual growth.

Since its formation in 1995, COGOC has successfully achieved the following undertakings in Ducis, Cascade and Dubreuil: an elementary school, a fruit and forest nursery, literacy program in all action areas with over a thousand participants, a savings and credit cooperative for planters' wives, installation of a mill for corn, millet and rice; stockbreeding promotion activity, distribution of animal drawn plows to peasant members, installation of a blocks factory, a unit of transformation of fruits devoted to exportation to North America and various workshops on issues such as human rights, democracy and civic education.

We are looking for funding to develop the prospective projects:

- ❖ Construction of agricultural transformation factory
- ❖ Community radio station equipped with telephone and internet
- ❖ High School in Cascade
- ❖ Community saving and credit cooperatives
- ❖ Guest house in Dubreuil

Our achievements have been made possible through the financial and sometimes technical assistance of our

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Third ACP Convocation in Cap Haitian- Haiti

The 3rd Assembly of Caribbean People took place in Haiti from August 20th to the 24th, 2003 under the theme: "Caribbean People, let's build our sovereign, egalitarian, equitable, just and peaceful Caribbean." These dates mark the 212th anniversary of the general uprising of the slaves of the Northern Plain, which catalyzed the final stage inforcing the abolition of slavery in 1793, and the creation of the Haitian state in 1804. The celebrations occurred in relation to the struggles of the region's social movements against capitalist globalization.

Some of the broad objectives of the Assembly include:

- Identifying the current problems of the Caribbean as related to capitalist globalization
- Defining the strategies for constructing a sovereign Caribbean, in search of a new identity true to its tradition of resistance and rebellion, and to its multiple historical roots and civilizations principles
- Contributing to the emergence of new actors in the region who come out of the struggles taking place in the Caribbean and in the world.

Representatives from seven of the region's countries including Haiti, Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Curacao, Trinidad and Tobago, and Martinique, planned and supervised the events and ten of thousands of individuals from 20 countries were represented.

Radiant & Resilient: Haitian Art Today

Exhibition, sale, and related events bring Haitian art and culture to the greater Boston community from October 18 through November 2003.

This undertaking is hailed as the largest Haitian Art exhibit of its kind to take place in Massachusetts: a unique opportunity to learn about Haitian art with several distinguished guests, remarkable cultural performances and free materials. Haitian artwork will be available for purchase.

For more information about the events and the New Jerusalem Community Center project, go to: haitianarttoday.org or call 617-492-7349; 617-733-8844; Fax: 617-945-0440.

Proceeds from the sale of the paintings will support the construction of a Haitian Community Center for the New Jerusalem Evangelical Baptist Church of Dorchester. Tax-deductible donations for the new Center are welcome. Checks should be made payable to NJEBS (New Jerusalem Evangelical Baptist Church) mail to: Anne Anninger 26 Healey Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Events are free and open to the public.

The whole town celebrated their victory!

(Editor's note: Shai, a Peace Corps volunteer in Fort Liberte, writes short stories to educate young people about health issues, prevention and abstinence. She is currently looking for interested parties to publish the stories. Shai can be reached at sqs2@yahoo.com. Read more of Shai's stories at: www.eritajfoundation.org)



village with medicine for all the sick people. "THANK YOU CACAPTAIN CHLOROQUINE!!!"

The rest of the town asked what they could do so the mean mosquitoes wouldn't bother them again. Captain

Chloroquine helped them fill in all the puddles of stagnant water so the mosquitoes couldn't lay eggs. And Mosquito Net covered their beds so mosquitoes couldn't bite them while they were sleeping.

The Mean Mosquito saw everything that was happening and he wasn't happy at all. "Let's get um!!!" The mean mosquito gang tried and tried again but with all the precautions the people had taken the mosquitoes just couldn't bite them.

Mean Mosquito and all his friends went away mad. "Let's look for another town with people we can bite." The whole town celebrated their victory.

One day a group of mean mosquitoes were making trouble in a small town. They infected a bunch of people with malaria.

The people were very sick so they called the doctor to take care of them. The hospital employees saw they had a big problem. "We need help, Let's call Captain Chloroquine and his side kick Mosquito Net..."

"Please Captain Chloroquine come help us!" "I'll be right there!" Captain Chloroquine flew over the

Coalition response

Excerpts of Mary Ellen T. Gilroy's letter from the Office of Caribbean Affairs in respond to the Let Haiti Live Coalition to support Haiti. Read full letter at our website.

There is no embargo against Haiti. U.S./Haiti trade relations are normal; the U.S. is Haiti's largest trading partner. The United States Government is Haiti's largest donor, disbursing \$120 million over the last two fiscal

years through NGOs. U.S. - funded programs in Haiti include child immunization, HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health, primary school education, agricultural development, food assistance, and democracy programs. U.S. assistance programs are run by non-governmental organizations because of the failure of the Government of Haiti to fulfill basic commitments regarding governance, human rights, and fiscal management.

COGOC

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partners. They include World Concern, Canadian Funds, ODEPA, MPP, POHDH, Caritas, Lambi Funds For Haiti, La Ruche Foundation, IAF, Koze Funds and HPCD. Despite the various partnerships we have developed in the past 8 years, COGOC's financial standing stays insecure. We have inherited the weaknesses of our organization members such as modest operating budgets and a dearth of skills.

Partial list of member associations:

Action and Development of the Locality of Gerard; Community Association for Ducis Development (ACDD); Youth Association of Cascade; Young Peasants' Association of Boulard; Peasants' Association of Deroncercay; Youths Grouping for Dubreuil (GJAD); Peasants Grouping of Toro; Peasants Grouping of Pèlerin-Lourou; Men in Action of Cascade; Organization for the Development of Acul River Side Basins

Profile of an Eritaj Volunteer

Yanick Garnier has been a resident of Framingham for over twenty years. She emigrated to the United States in 1972



when Jean Claude Duvalier has been in power for but one year. She still lives here with her husband Eugene and their 2 children Alix and Francine. She works for the Framingham library and is very active in the Metrowest community, serving as a board member of the Framingham Coalition for the Prevention of Drugs and Alcohol Abuse and of the Framingham Department of Social Security. Yanick came to an Eritaj's *Christmas for Me* drive with appreciation and encouragement. She now manages Eritaj's donor database.

An OASIS in Beudet

Our Attempt at Saving Innocent Souls (OASIS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of poor orphans in Beudet, a village near Croix des Bouquets. The OASIS project provides a Christian home, a good education, medical care, food and a chance for a better life. Now, 9 children are in their new home and they are content, already gaining weight and getting vaccinated. They no longer have to walk around naked, in bare feet and hungry. They have hope for a better life and one can see the love of Christ in their renewed smiles. Children are the future of a nation; when they are not fed, educated, nurtured and loved, the whole of the nation will eventually die. Our 9 children would most likely die without the help of OASIS.

We would like you to consider playing a part in helping OASIS. The more help and sponsors we get, the more innocent lives we can literally save. I urge you to help in any way that you can. Here is how you can help OASIS grow:

- Sponsor a child for just \$20.00/month
- One time donation towards expenses to run orphanage
- Give a generator (we have an urgent need for electricity in the home)
- Send us the names of companies, churches, friends, coworkers you know might be willing to help

Please don't take too long to answer this appeal; a child's life depends on your decision. We are commissioned by God to feed the hungry and clothe the naked and now is the perfect time to do what we know in our hearts is right.

Luceanna Moore
54 Church Street,
Millburn NJ 07041
Ph: (908) 298-9272 • Fax: (908) 298-0129

Teaching farming skills in primary school in Limonade

Dorcine Gesner, an agriculturist in the town of Limonade wants to introduce farming skills to the elementary schools. Speaking about this project, Dorcine said: "We want to give some agricultural education to the children early on. Education is the backbone of a strong community and knowledge of farming is essential to the Haitian peasantry. We will need some materials like hoe, rake, shovel, seed". The course would be based on environmental agriculture. The children will learn basic skills to raise vegetables and hopefully earn cash to pay for high school. Dorcine would like to begin with this project in January with one school in Limonade. A modest sum of \$600 would help him get started. Individuals who care to make this little, yet essential, project a reality are urged to send their contribution to Eritaj Foundation/Limonade. Dorcine Gesner can be contacted at gesner7@hotmail.com

Haitian Community Relations Presents

Bicentennial of Haiti- Symposium One, Atlanta Saturday, October 4, 2003

South Cobb Recreation Center, 875 Six Flags Dr.,
Austell, GA 30168

Partial lists of presentations of distinguished authors, scholars and renowned Haitian artists include:

- Linkage between Haiti and US: Slide Show: Frances Maclean, Washington, DC
- Dr. Joseph Baptiste, CEO/President of NOAH Washington, DC
- Cathy Harris, Author Atlanta, Georgia *Flying While Black*
- Haitian American Association For Advancement, Jacksonville, Florida

- Le Ballet D'Haiti, Patrick Lacroix: Artistic Director
- The miseries of democracy in Haiti: Dr. J. Raphael Georges, New Hampshire University
- Jean Marcel Wah, Jr., Artist California
- Haiti's World Contributions, Réginal Souffrant, New York
- New York Bicentennial Committee Coordinators: Daniel Ulysse & Carole Tertulien, NY

Do not miss this wonderful opportunity to integrate efforts for bicentennial activities and to visit Atlanta. Register online at: www.hcronline.org; Send an email to: hcrinfor@hcronline.org or call : (770) 438-0190

Eritaj Foundation Inc.

Eritaj Foundation was established in the U.S. in 1999 to support projects in Haiti at the grass-root levels. It offers promotional, technical, in kind and financial assistance to help strengthen Haiti's precarious non-profit organizations.

❖ **Femmes en Luttes** (Women's Struggles) A microloan project for poor mothers.

❖ **Gift of Education** • The Adopt A Child program. • James & Diana Thomson Education Fund.

❖ **Poverty Reduction Series** Project with Jazz musician, Willie Sordillo.

❖ **Helping Hands** Annual drives of medical supplies, electronic equipments, non-perishable food.

❖ **Volunteer Program** Eritaj recruits volunteers to provide hands-on services in Haiti.

❖ **Publication *Eritaj Chronicle***, a newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti, is published 6 times a year.

❖ **Grassroots Fund** (\$250 to start) Eritaj Foundation provides permanent, professional management of charitable funds without the expense and struggle of establishing a private foundation.

❖ **Grassroots Coalition to Support Haiti** Eritaj partners with service organizations that provide assistance in the areas of health care education, relief and development in Haiti.

Support Eritaj Programs

Adopt a Child

\$120 full adoption; \$60 school tuition; \$30 books & supplies

Femmes en luttes

Helping Hands

Eritaj Chronicle

Method of payment:

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

2. Credit card: Visa
MasterCard

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