

In the arts, HNGD has brought several musicians from around the diaspora to entertain and educate us about Haitian music, with genre from folk to opera. In history, Professor Laurent Dubois educated us about the Haitian revolution and Mr. Marc Christophe broadened our understanding of General Toussaint’s Louverture leadership while deepening our appreciation of his personality. On many occasions, Professors Guérin Montilus and Jean-Claude Dutès edified the Detroit community through various lectures on Haitian culture, history and Mental Health, and on more than one occasion we have been soothed by Dr. Dutès’s melodious reading of French love poems. More recently, the introduction and acknowledgement of the book “American Street” by IBI ZOBOI was a unique experience that captivated the curiosity of the elders as well as of the attention of the youngsters. Our foods have also been celebrated, as our cooks have introduced the American public to many of our scrumptious dishes and desserts. Many other activities, too many to list here, served the same great purpose.

The Board of Directors is always the key to the success of any organization, and yet its members are often little more than names to the other members, friends and contacts of the organization. There are also those who have not gotten public recognition, but whose effort and deeds contributed to the success of every event. Everyone who has ever helped set the room for an event, prepare a dish, reach out to inform others of a program and strengthen the community by distributing a pamphlet, sending an email, bringing a friend to a function is part of HNGD’s success. Our non-Haitian friends will not be forgotten either. Their responses to our request for assistance, financial contribution and allocation of space to hold our events have been invaluable. Although too many to list here, of note are Wayne State University, Madonna University and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

At this point, we would like to take our hats off in salute to the founding members and introduce current and most public faces of HNGD, the officers who have led and those striving daily to keep the organization alive:

**FOUNDING MEMBERS**

- Ms. Magareth Corkery
- Mr. Fritz Monplaisir
- Dr. Marie Soledad Nelson

**CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS**

- Ms. Shirley Alcé
- Ms. Margareth Corkery
- Mr. Alain Desvallons-Mentor
- Ms. Janny Magloire Milton

**COMMITTEES:**

- **Bylaws and Election Committee:**
  - Dr. Marie soledad Nelson (Chairperson)
  - Fritz Momplaisir
- **Membership Committee:**
  - Lise-Pauline Barnett
  - Carine J. Hails

**ASSOCIATES**

- Dr. Jean-Claude Dutès, Editor of Newsletter, “Zanmi Detroit,” and Former Vice President
- Ms. Maggy Moise Thomas: Layout Editor, Newsletter, “Zanmy Detroit” ■



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