



Native-American Potawatomi woman, became a successful fur trader and founded what we now call Chicago. *DuSable Heritage Association (DHA)*, created nearly 18 years ago, took as its mission to celebrate that feat and the memory of the first Chicago couple, Jean-Baptiste and Kittihawa Pointe DuSable while advocating for the future DuSable Park located at the confluence of the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. As Haitians scattered across the Midwest, we have the opportunity to claim DuSable as our own by promoting his recognition as the Founder of Chicago, by demanding construction of DuSable Park with a Haitian and Native-American presence on it, by celebrating the annual DuSable Day on 4 March (date of incorporation of Chicago as a city) and by participating in the annual wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of the death of DuSable in August. We can do so while being inclusive and welcoming everybody, Haitians and non-Haitians, who share the same passion.

As we celebrate the spirit of DuSable together and support each other, Haitians and Haitian-Americans, we can create a resilient network of organizations across the Midwest that will strengthen us and increase our well-being. I am encouraged and grateful that our friends in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana have started this process.

*I take this opportunity to thank Margareth and Shirley of HNGD for their participation in our annual gala 2019. I invite everyone to our annual DuSable Commemoration on Saturday 24 August 2019, when we lay flowers at the DuSable statue downtown Chicago and give a free tour of the DuSable Founders Trail along the Chicago River to DuSable Park. I also invite our friends across the Midwest to our next annual DHA Gala on Saturday 7 March 2020, for another exciting evening with Jean-Baptiste and Kittihawa. Please visit our website at "dusableheritage.org" for updated information. ■*

## HNGD FIRST NETWORKING EVENT

On **March 30**, Nacks Restaurant was filled to capacity when we gathered for the 1<sup>st</sup> HNGD Networking event of the year.



The atmosphere was relaxed and convivial as we sat down to enjoy the Haitian inspired meal prepared by Chef Christian Noël. We were ecstatic to welcome old friends and

forge new friendships! Mr. and Mrs. Roudy Rousseau who are long time Michigan residents met up with their friends from Ohio: Mr. Nicolas Paul and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Guillod. Jonathan Paul, a student at U of D Jesuit who hails from Haiti, brought along his American family Mr. and Mrs. Casalou. Mr. Devin Mason also made a special trip from the west side for the opportunity to network with us.

A good time was had by all and it was unanimously agreed that the experience was worth repeating. ■

## EDWIDGE DANTICAT

On **April 11**, HNGD members attended a lecture by Edwidge Danticat at the Museum of Art on the U of M campus.

After the presentation, a small group of HNGD members met with Ms. Danticat and spent a great deal of time talking to her and her family members, Savary and Cynthia Boyer and their children, who live in Jackson (MI). Ms. Danticat was welcoming and gracious. As we were commiserating about the fact that she did not get a chance to meet all the members of our community, she promised that she will let us know ahead of time of her next visit, to allow us to give her a proper Michigan Welcome.



Edwidge Danticat is a 2009 MacArthur fellow and the author of several books, including *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, an Oprah Book Club selection, and *Krik? Krak!*, a National Book Award finalist. She is also the editor of *The Butterfly's Way: Voices from the Haitian Diaspora in the United States*, Best American Essays 2011, and has written six books for children and young adults, including *Anacaona*, *Behind the Mountains*, and *Eight Days*. Her memoir, *Brother, I'm Dying*, was a 2007 finalist for the National Book Award and a 2008 winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography. *The Art of Death: Writing the Final Story*, published in 2017, was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. ■