

August 2016**Volume 8, No. 1****INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

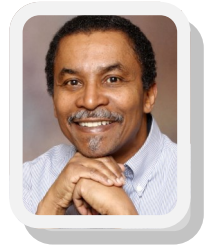
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Zanmi Detroit is published by the Haitian Network Group of Detroit, whose mission is to promote Haitian culture and provide a forum for Haitians and friends to network.

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Zanmi Detroit

ABOUT THIS ISSUE...

Time has not followed Lamartine's admonishment to stop its flight. Spring has come and gone, and we are now well entrenched in the midst of summer. Mother's day and father's

day's celebrations for this year are now archived in our memory. To all mothers and fathers, we offer our heartfelt congratulations for the achievements of their children, and compassion and sympathy to those parents whose children made the final voyage prematurely or are facing challenges.

As is the case in any community, we have had occasions to celebrate and mourn since the New Year. We applaud the artistic creativity and success of Dominique Morisseau and salute the culinary talent of Chef Christian Noël; at the same time, we continue to mourn the loss of Myrtelle (Miche) Pierre-Louis, Juana Lidia Coello Montilus and grieve the recent passing of Marcelle Charles and her spouse Dr. Phillip Charles, both of whom were pillars of the Detroit Haitian community. In these painful times, we would like their families to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers and offer them our condolences and deepest sympathy.

In this issue, which is less ambitious than the last one, but no less significant, we take you in several directions that we hope you will find stimulating instead of confusing. Since age encapsulates the wisdom of years, we respectfully take our hats to three of our elders who are living beyond their expected longevity in full control of their mental faculties. We can only hope to emu-

late them and to inspire the admiration in our children that they have stirred in their offspring. You will again read our children's tributes to their parents, and would like to seek the understanding and indulgence of the Pierre's family for omitting the tribute written in their honor by their daughter Réjane in the last issue.

Haiti emerges again as we cast an eye toward home and the work being done there to save lives, alleviate misery, expand mind and restore or build foundations for continued hope. In our continuing effort to encourage our children to excel, we recognize the new graduates. To keep you informed of community events, we provide an update of HNGD activities since the last issue. And last but not least, in the literary section, we offer a reflective piece that we are sure many of you will find to be a source of inspiration.

Before closing we would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to make a contribution to the newsletter and/or invested your time or contributed financially to help turn our activities into successful events.

To all of our readers, we hope you will enjoy reading this issue as much as you did the last one and wish you and your family a happy summer season.

The Editor,

Dr. Jean-Claude Dutès ■

Editor: Dr. Jean-Claude Dutès

Layout Editor: Maggy Moise-Thomas

TRIBUTE TO OUR ELDERS



Edith Baker Morisseau

came to Detroit 1956 with her husband, the late Reverend E. Dumont Morisseau. Edith led a busy life as a clergy wife. She sang in the choir, worked in the altar guild and chaired many committees. She has two sons Eddy and Frantz and a daughter Paule Jhisline who is deceased. She attended Nursing

School at Mercy College, now University of Detroit Mercy and became a registered nurse with a B.S. Degree. Later she earned a master's degree in Adult Psychiatry. She was employed by the Michigan Department of Mental Health (DMH) for 30 years. She was Nursing Education Director until her retirement.

Volunteering is not new to Edith. In Haiti, in the 1940s, she founded with Sister Joan Margaret, a nun at the Episcopal Church, the St. Vincent School for the Handicapped. She worked with the blinds and deaf mute. The school was destroyed in 2010 by the earthquake and is now being reconstructed in Montrouis. In Detroit, she volunteered at the Suicide Prevention and Drug Abuse Center. She also accompanied the Haiti Outreach Mission on several medical trips to Haiti.

Her hobby of working with stained glass has produced some beautiful work of art. She enjoys playing bridge with her club members, the Doolittles. She likes to travel; she is an avid reader and goes to work out twice a week. She is a member of St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield, where she is a member of the Daughters of the King and Haiti Outreach Mission. Life is good. God is good and Edith blesses his name daily.

Written by Jany Milton ■

Jean Marc Leonard

My grandfather Jean Marc Leonard also known as Père Marco is an exceptional man, because he truly cares for his family and friends. He shows he cares by the little things that he does, such as handmade art and crafts and his known signature item, the boat with

a Haitian flag on it, enclosed inside of a glass bottle. He spends time and energy for every piece and makes sure he gives it to everyone he meets. Still to this day, I have no idea how he gets the boat inside the glass. He is a remarkable man because of his strength, after losing his wife of 62 years,

he manages to keep living. I am sure losing her has affected him, but he still manages to enjoy life, whereas he could easily remain sad or depressed. Lastly, Père Marco, has influenced our family by teaching us the value of integrity, he has taught us this with his numerous talks, lectures and examples that a man or woman with integrity is one with great character. He consistently instills this in all of us by pointing out our flaws and by correcting them in a loving manner. He is caring, strong and a teacher of life. That alone is an example of how my grand-father is a pillar to our family.

Written by Medjie Pascal Harris ■



Pere Leonard, second from right with daughter and grandchildren

Cicie Hérard has been part of the Metro Detroit Haitian community since 1999. She was born in

Jérémie, Haiti on December 13, 1923. She was the third child of four siblings. Miss Cicie has since raised 2 children, Marie Lourdes and Guy, on her own. In Haiti she provided for her family as a seamstress as well as



selling fabric. She moved to the US with her daughter, Marie in 1979.

Miss Cicie worked for 10 years in Cicago. Acclimating herself to the cold and to riding the bus to work. She then, applied for her son Guy to join them. Her daughter then married. Before coming to Detroit Cicie, and her daughter's family have lived in California. California has been Cicie's favorite state, due to the warm weather no doubt. She adapts herself wherever she is, « va où tu veux, mourir où tu dois ».

Cicie is not fond of cold weather, but is fond of the community in Michigan. She has a profound love for her children and church. She is a devout christian, and does not miss her weekly church service. Her faith in the will of God is strong. This has been her life philosophy. She is a very quiet woman with a sharp memory. She is a loving woman who refers to everyone as baby. And when she says it you feel it.

Written by Danielle Desroches ■

first job taking care of an elderly person. After she passed away, I joined one family, babysitting their first child and the two that came after. Basically, I raised all three of the children until they got married. I retired in 1989 and, soon after my retirement, I moved to Detroit Michigan.

My main reason for moving to Michigan was to be close to my family. After arriving in Michigan, I was introduced to a very close friend of the family, Adeline Auguste, who then introduced me to the Haitian Community. I met some wonderful people, many of whom became very close friends. Additionally, I enjoy the fellowship of my church family.

My motto in life is be compassionate, understanding, and patient towards others

I would like to wish all of the Mothers "Happy Mother's Day!"

Claire Danjou ■

My name is **Claire Danjou**. I was born on January 3, 1923 in Petit Goave, Haiti and attended La Sagesse High School where I received my Diploma. After High School, I became interested in embroidery and decided to take sewing and embroidery classes. With those skills, I started making embroidery bed sheets, tablecloths etc.



Soon after, I met my future husband, Marcel Joseph Danjou, who is now deceased. We were married on February 29, 1944. Our union produced three children, who in turn blessed us with two granddaughters whom I love dearly. I love spending quality time with my family reminiscing about fond family times. My passion is taking care of my family, by making sure they have everything they need in order to succeed in life.

My hobbies include, singing love songs, reading romantic novels and cooking.

I left Haiti in 1975 at the age of 50. I arrived in Boston Massachusetts where my oldest son lived. After 6 months, I moved to Washington DC where I got my

HONORING PARENTS



Réjane Pierre

My parents are the most loving and caring people who no doubt sacrificed a lot for us and made sure that we were a priority. I will always be grateful to them for always being there and making sure we got everything we needed. They inspire me to be the best and work hard so that the sacrifices they made were not in vain.

It is because of them that I'm the person I am today - happy, hardworking, self-sufficient, and proud.

Thanks Mom and Dad! Love you always. ■



Mrs. Jacqueline and Dr. Raynald Pierre

THE HAITI CONECTION: PUTTING LIFE INTO YEARS

HAITI OUTREACH MISSION TRIP 2016

By Bill and Valerie Mc Neece

Led by Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews, this year twenty-three people traveled to Haiti from the Detroit, MI area and Billings MT. Three members of the construction team arrived in Port-au-Prince on Tuesday, April 5 to help prepare the way for the rest of us on Friday April 8.

Much was accomplished before most of us arrived in Haiti. A few trips to Grand Rapids, MI produced the "Lab in a Suitcase" that was immediately put to use at the St. Pierre clinic in Mirebalais as Dr. Beaudelaire Cadet ordered tests including urine analysis, hemoglobins and hematocrits. It was bought with funds raised through our ongoing capital campaign and church donations. Those funds also paid for a new compressor for the dental suite purchased in Haiti by the construction team. It was set up just in time for all the students sent to the clinic for dental care by our fluoride team. Three dentists, Dr. Monica Stafford, Dr. Anthony Joseph, and Dr. Valliere Lancie were kept very busy!

The fluoride team began their work on Saturday afternoon and set a new HOM record by visiting six schools.

Many patients, both children and adults, came to the clinic to be seen by our nurses and doctors. There seemed to be more sick children this year: Lots of skin and scalp issues.



On Thursday, April 14 we conducted a mobile medical / dental / pharmacy just outside Hinche in an elementary school that is still under construction. It featured a tarp roof and a floor of large loose stones. Classrooms full of students were quickly transformed into spaces for adult pa-

tients, child patients, dental patients, pharmacy, and fluoride treatments. Many of our first-timers were witness to the children being fed a corn-mush dinner. There were no picky eaters. Many continued to lick plates clean as they were taken to be washed so others could eat.

Our pharmacy(s) were very efficient so patients did not wait very long for their vitamins, antacid, baby formula, and prescriptions.

Over the years we have come to view our Haitian partners

as family, especially our supporting priests. While most of our time is spent working together we do have fun together. This year HOM organized a baby shower for our nurse/ pharmacist/ clinic manager, Yoldie Esterlin, and her husband. It was wonderful to party with our Haitian friends.

The long time support of HOM by local Haitian American communities (HNGD and dearly departed Espoir) and their allies and our base of member churches is bearing fruit. One of our translators this year was Golds Mithe Joseph. She was educated at one of the schools we have supported since 2000, St. Pierre Episcopal School. (She especially remembers us because of fluoride treatments!) She then went to college in Wisconsin, and is back in Mirebalais employed by a Catholic NGO organizing women's groups. And the Haitian dentist that helped us this year, Dr. Valliere Lancie, was also educated at St. Pierre schools. HOM members supported her as part of our student / classroom sponsorship program.

Regarding the twenty-three that went to Haiti this year - joined by our Haitian translators: The team spirit, willingness to do whatever necessary, and lack of complaints was inspirational. ■

FACULTE DES SCIENCES INFIRMIERES DE LEOGANE (FSIL): EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

By Clara Etzel and Marcia Lane



Danta Bien Aimé, a graduate of the Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de Léogâne (FSIL), of the Episcopal University of Haiti obtained the highest score out of 2,500 nurses on this year's national board exam in Haiti, making her Haiti's "nurse laureate." She was one of the students who earned their BSN degrees in 2014.

Since 2005, when the school was founded, it has graduated 115 BSN-prepared nurses who were the first students to earn that degree in Haiti.

At a time when professionals are leaving Haiti in droves, 95% of FSIL graduates continue to reside in Haiti, thereby reinforcing the country's fragile health infrastructure.

FSIL 1915 Graduating Class



The Nursing School, with the support and vision of the Haiti Nursing Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and under the leadership of Dean Hilda Alcindor seconded by an able and dedicated staff, continues to innovate in King Henri Christophe's tradition of excellence, bringing new programs and opening up Haiti's youth to new skills.

In recognition of the work that FSIL is doing in improving the quality of nursing education and the delivery of health care, the Ministry of Public Health (MSPP) rated FSIL as the top nursing school in Haiti in 2015.

Thanks to FSIL, Haiti now has its first Occupational and Physical therapy programs. Seven students are now enrolled in Haiti's 4-year Occupational/Physical Therapy program, at the Faculté des Sciences de Réhabilitation de Léogâne or FSRL. Given the number of amputees caused by the earthquake, these two programs will no doubt help many disabled persons become more productive and live fuller and more satisfying lives.

This is not all, folks.

Hoping to broaden health care services to women and infants, FSIL in partnership with Frontier Nursing University will begin the first new graduate Nurse Midwifery program to be offered in Haiti, expected to begin in the fall of 2016. Also scheduled to begin in 2016 is Haiti's first RN to BSN program. Nurse educators from the US are helping FSIL develop this wonderful opportunity for Haiti's nurses.

And now, the rest of the story.

Today, FSIL has 130 undergraduates, 7 OT/PT Rehab students and 15 Family Nurse Practitioner Master's candidates enrolled in the different academic programs.

Doesn't all that information make you curious?

Doesn't it make you want to visit?

Doesn't it make you want to support HNF and FSIL?

You can do all three by visiting FSIL, making a donation or telling everyone you know about the work that is being done.

Guess what... FSIL is ready for your visit.

In 2015, it built a new Guest House, powered with completely green energy from solar panels, to serve visitors at reasonable rates, while providing the school with income. It's a clean and comfortable place for travelers, mission groups, and other volunteers, with hot water for showers, air conditioning, fans, Wi-Fi, airport transfer, and 3 wonderful meals a day.



Guest House at FSIL, Belval, Haiti

You can contact HNF for information: 734-353-9565 or info@haitinursing.org. ■

THE HAVE FAITH HAITI MISSION

By Mark Mendelsohn

The Have Faith Haiti Mission is a special place of love and caring, dedicated to the safety, education, health and spiritual development of Haiti's impoverished children and orphans. It was formed as The Caring and Sharing Mission in the 1980s and is currently located near Port au Prince, in Delmas.

Only four weeks after the devastating earthquake in January of 2010, the Mission was visited by Mitch Albom and some friends from Detroit. Their original intent was to bring supplies to the Mission and to meet with other organizations in Port au Prince that may need the help of Mitch's A Hole in the Roof Foundation. (A Hole in the Roof Foundation assists faith and



Mark Mendelshon and Mitch Albom in the center with the children and staff at the orphanage

relief groups of every denomination who care for the homeless and/or victims of disasters.)

After spending three days in the area, it was decided that the Mission itself was a place worthy of help. Fortunately, no one there was seriously injured in the quake and the buildings sustained little irreparable damage; but the infrastructure really needed some repair, replacement and new additions. Approximately two months later, a crew of 6 or 7 workers, from the Detroit area, travelled to the Mission to begin work on projects such as building showers, new bathrooms and an indoor kitchen. By early summer, the second "Detroit Muscle Crew" returned with almost 20 people. This crew included nurses to *look into the health of the children at the Mission. They started the first medical records system that the Mission ever had, which is still in use today.*

As the visits progressed, it became apparent that the Mission was having some difficult financial times. By the fall, there was an agreement that A Hole in the Roof Foundation would become the operator of the Mission. At that time, the name was changed to the Have Faith Haiti Mission, in reference to Mitch's book (Have A Little Faith) which inspired the founding of A Hole in the Roof.

The next few years became a time of rapid growth and refocus at the Mission. The number of children increased as young victims of the earthquake were brought there. Dieticians visited the Mission to help improve the nutrition of the meals. A dermatologist came to help with skin problems. A dentist made regular visits to keep up with the kids' oral health. "Nannies" were hired to oversee the children's activities when they are not in school. Most importantly perhaps, were the changes in the children's education.

The first improvement was the building of a real school house. Previously, there was only a single room that did double service as the Mission's chapel. Now, there is a three room school house and there are architect's plans to increase that to six rooms soon. Second, many new teachers were added, with every classroom having at least one teacher and one teacher's assistant. Third, an advanced curriculum was put in place that has the children learning in English during the morning and in French in the afternoon.

Today, the Mission is a place filled with approximately thirty vibrant, healthy, loving children. They have guidelines in their lives and are taught the importance of hard work and responsibility to the Mission, their "brothers and sisters" and those less fortunate than themselves.

If you would like to more information on the Have Faith Haiti Mission or to make a donation towards its operation, please visit: www.havefaithhaiti.org.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Mark Mendelsohn at mendelmarkh@gmail.com. ■

ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL: HONORING A MAN OF GOD

The bible teaches us that many are called, but few are chosen. The Michigan Haitian Community has been fortunate to have this chosen man in our lives. Throughout the years, this man has been a pillar amongst the Haitians, leading most of our precious moments in life. From family Christenings, 1st Communions, Confirmations, and Marriage, to consoling us in our challenging times including loss and other hardships, he continues to lead us through the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Despite his busy schedule, he always makes time for our people, often sharing in our food, music, and embracing our culture. Blessed with his hands-on leadership for our missionary work in Haiti, even traveling to Haiti himself on occasion, to local fundraising work for our native land, we fittingly find that this man always goes above and beyond the call.



Today we take a moment to honor Father Don Archambault for being a man of God, a well-respected Catholic Priest, an admired and trusted friend to many, and continuously going beyond the call in leading the Michigan faith community of Haitians.

We thank you Father Don!

-Stanley Pierre-Louis on behalf of HNGD ■

BUILDING HEALTH AND RESEARCH CAPACITY IN HAITI

By Ms. Dana Parke

HNGD Member, **Ms. Dana Parke**, is the Haiti Program Coordinator at the Global Health Initiative (GHI) at Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) in Detroit. In Haiti, GHI focuses on building health capacity through research, training and community engagement initiatives.



Ms. Parke recently returned from her third successful trip to Haiti, which strengthened GHI's collaborations with the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) and with Université Quisqueya Faculté des Sciences de la Santé (UniQ-FSSA).

On March 10-11, 2016, GHI and the MSPP co-hosted their Second Annual Scientific Conference, bringing together local

and international stakeholders to discuss the theme of “Best Practices for Partnerships for Vaccine Preventable Diseases in Haiti”. Dr. Julie Gerberding (former Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) was among the presenters. This followed the successful 2015 conference on “Elimination Strategies for Malaria in Haiti”.

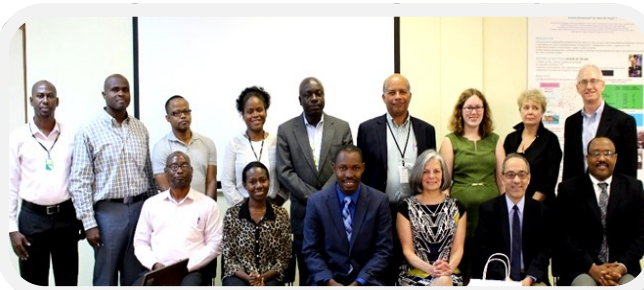


Dr. Geneviève Poitevien
(Dean of Université
Quisqueya Faculté des
Sciences de la Santé)
and Dana Parke.

GHI has also established a research program with UniQ-FSSA, which encompassed hosting a research training workshop for medical students, faculty and community health workers in August 2014. Following the workshop, GHI trained the students to implement lessons learned via a research project conducting surveys on healthcare utilization in four internally displaced communities in and around Port-au-Prince. During the March 2016 trip, GHI shared the results of the surveys with the students and community leaders. Additionally, the GHI – UniQ-FSSA collaboration includes a medical education and research exchange program; GHI will be hosting two Haitian medical students in Detroit in July-August 2016. Further, GHI was pleased to have HNGD representation at our “Partnerships in Haiti Reception” at Henry Ford Hospital on April 18, 2016, featuring GHI collaborator, Dr. Geneviève Poitevien, Dean of UniQFSSA.

The incredible, and continuing, effort of GHI staff and Haitian partners has catalyzed development in medical education and research that will carry forward far into the future.

To learn more about GHI's Haiti Program, please contact Ms. Parke at dparke1@hfhs.org. ■



Ms. Dana Parke, second row, third from the right, with presenters at the Second Annual Scientific conference co-hosted by GHI and the MSPP.



Dr. Linda Kaljee (GHI) discussing healthcare utilization survey results to UniQ-FSSA medical students.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND RE-SOURCES HELP REBUILD HAITI

By Karen Sanborn

Director of Marketing & Public Relations, Madonna University

Madonna University continues to provide support to earthquake-ravaged Haiti, through a unique distance learning business education program aimed at teaching Haitian residents to become business leaders.

The Haitian Educational Leadership Program (HELP) was established in 2011 in response to the 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. HELP was the brainchild of Madonna President Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, who toured the disaster-stricken nation in July 2010, with other Felician Sisters of North America.

“I knew that we had to do something to help; something that would have a lasting effect and bring positive, sustainable change to the nation,” Kujawa said.

Madonna staff and faculty worked with the Felician Sisters of North America to develop the curriculum and online delivery of the program in partnership with Haiti Tec, a post-secondary technical school in Port-au-Prince. Online classes, taught by Madonna University faculty, help students in Haiti learn how to create sustainable improvement in their living conditions. Students completing the program earn a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with certification in Community Leadership.

More than 50 students in Haiti have participated in HELP, which requires at least two years of college experience to be eligible. The program produced its first seven graduates last May. Another 12 students are expected to complete the program and receive their bachelor's degrees at commencement May 10, 2015.

“Haiti is still in the process of recovering from the 2010 earthquake. There are many programs and volunteers in place, but we are focused on helping people learn to help themselves,” said Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa.



“The idea is simple,” she continued. “Students will improve their lives, and then go on to share their gifts and skills to improve the

Paul DeNapoli, Madonna's director of Fire Science, Emergency Management and Occupational Safety & Environmental Health. D (left) Donald Conrad, associate professor of Business Law & Economics at Madonna (Right)

quality of the lives of others.”

The program is the only one of its kind in Haiti, according to Donald Conrad, Madonna University business administration faculty member.

It is a reflection of the university’s mission and commitment to its Franciscan values of: education for truth and service; reverence for creation; peace and justice and respect for the dignity of each person, Conrad said. “It’s programs like this that distinguish Madonna from other universities: we are living our mission.”

Madonna University’s commitment to Haiti also is evident on campus as students help raise funds for clean water for Haiti residents. The Water with Blessings project, founded by the Felician Sisters of North America, in Pennsylvania, trains Haitian “Water Women” in water filtration technology. Kujawa said \$60 will cover the cost to train one “Water Woman,” so that she can help teach children and other adults the importance of clean water for drinking and bathing.

Both programs bring new opportunities for Haitian residents to create continuous improvement in their living conditions. These initiatives also encourage and inspire students and faculty to enlarge their world view, Kujawa said.

“Those involved have felt grateful to be a part of this mission. It helps us instill in our students the adage, ‘I am my brother’s keeper,’” she said. ■

THE MADONNA UNIVERSITY- HAITI CONNECTION: STRONGER THAN EVER!

Submitted by Maggy Corkery

In 2015, Sister Rose Marie Kujawa retired from her position at the helm of the 4,200-student, liberal arts University. However, her legacy lives on. This year a total of ten Haitian students completed the Haitian Educational Leadership Program (HELP); five of whom made the trip to Michigan to attend the Madonna University School of Business Honors Convocation. On May 6, 2016 the University organized a reception in their honor. As with the previous year, an invitation was extended to HNGD. I had the pleasure of meeting these gifted students and spent some time talking to them about their journey since they first started with the long distance learning program. I, for one, am grateful for the invaluable work Madonna University has done with the Haitian students for the past three years by giving them the tool that will help concretize their dreams and aspirations to play a role in the rebuilding of their country.

Over the past year, The Haitian network Group has also benefited from Madonna University’s interest in Haiti. With Sister Rose Marie Kujawa’s blessings, her Staff played a major role in the success of the 2016 Haitian Art Festival, Bèl Bagay Lakay. This collaborative effort led by Dr. Betty

Jean Hebel included a number of key individuals; namely, Diane Sevigny-Lefebvre, Dr. Michelle Proctor, Karen Sanborn and Dr. Gerald Charbonneau and his students who supported the Festival Committee in many areas: marketing, housing, volunteering, etc.

This newly formed friendship between HNGD and Madonna University did not stop when Bèl Bagay Lakay ended. This past April, with the assistance of the Reference Librarian, Emma Decenso, HNGD’s first Book Club meeting took place on Campus without a hitch. I dare to hope this budding relationship will continue to flourish and bear more fruits as the years go by. ■



*Karen Sanborn,
Director of Marketing and Public
Relations at Madonna University*



*Dr. Betty Jean Hebel Chair, Management and Marketing
at Madonna University (left)*



*The 2016 graduates of the Haitian Educational Leadership
Program with faculty members.*

MEET THE GRADUATE



Besides ensuring our physical and emotional survival, the second most important contribution parents make to the lives of their children is to provide them with best education their means allow. With an education we are always in a position to turn luck into an opportunity for durable achievement of any kind. In a tribute to both parents and their remarkable children, we are happy to recognize the graduates for their academic and /or professional achievements.■

CONGRATULATIONS CHRISTOPHER!



Christopher Phanord graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in December of 2015 with High Distinction. He double majored in Psychology and Criminal Justice Studies, with a minor in Sociology. Christopher Phanord plans to apply to graduate schools later this year, and hopes to earn

his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He plans on going on a week-long medical mission trip to Mirebalais, Haiti, in April of this year with the Haiti Outreach Mission. Right now, Christopher works at University Pediatricians Autism Center, helping to provide comprehensive assessment and treatment services to improve the quality of life for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families throughout the Metro Detroit Area. ■

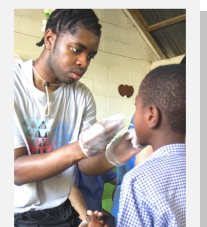
MY EXPERIENCE ON THE HAITI OUTREACH MISSION TEAM

By Christopher Phanord

I just returned from a week-long medical and dental mission trip to Mirebalais, Haiti with the Haiti Outreach Mission (HOM). HOM is a non-profit charitable organization founded in 1998. This ecumenical group is dedicated to helping the people of Mirebalais in multiple ways, including a full-time healthcare clinic, dental clinic, water purification system, and various construction and repair projects. The team is an ecumenical group in which volunteers use their various skills and abilities to help those in need. This was my first time going to Haiti, and the experience was unforgettable. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to be fully emerged in experiencing my Haitian heritage first-hand, while also working on a team that provided dental fluoride treatments to over 1,800 school children and teachers. The people, the culture, the language, the food, the cities were all so beautiful. I enjoyed every moment of my time there, and I hope to go back again on future missions trips. While working with the team, we were able to go to many places in Mirebalais, Hinche, and even visited the waterfall at Saut-d'Eau.

I was on the fluoride team that travelled from school to school administering fluoride treatments at six schools, in four different towns: Mirebalais, Trianon, Desvarrieux, and Hinche. The

treatments help strengthen teeth, and protects against cavities and tooth decay. Being greeted by so many school children of all ages in their brightly-colored school uniforms at the schools was amazing. I could see how grateful they were for the toothbrushes and fluoride treatments.



Those working in the clinic treated hundreds of patients at both the clinic in Mirebalais, and mobile clinic in Hinche. The many doctors, nurses, dentists, construction workers, translators, and volunteers on the Haiti Outreach Mission team works so hard and I am so inspired by their dedication.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews, co-

founder of Haiti Outreach Mission, for coordinating the trip, keeping everything under control, and making sure all of our goals were accomplished. Dr. Monde-Matthews is literally the heart and soul of Haiti Outreach Mission, and her work is greatly appreciated by so many. She truly is a phenomenal, hardworking woman loved and admired by everyone on the Haiti Outreach Mission team, and all of the people in Haiti she interacted with.



From left to right: Wally Rydzewski, Tom Maza, and Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews treating patients at the mobile clinic in Hinche, Haiti.

Merci beaucoup to Pere Lévêque Bien-Aimé from St. Louis Catholic Church and Pere Alphonse Jean Philippe from St. Pierre Episcopal Church. They made us feel very welcomed at their rectories, and we really enjoyed the meals. I had such a great experience in Haiti, and I am really glad I had an opportunity to help the Haiti Outreach Mission. One of my favorite moments of the mission trip was being able to take a photo of the beautiful view from the top of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Hinche (pictured below). **To find out more information about Haiti Outreach Mission, please visit their website at www.haitioutreachmission.org.** ■



ACTIVITIES UPDATE



FOOD FOR THE SOUL STORIES

By Jan Ulrich

They are the way we make sense of our lives, our relationships and our world. In *The Dew Breaker*, Edwidge Danticat beautifully weaves the stories of numerous people from different walks of life and different generations together. Through their eyes we see Haiti – the common street scenes, the traditions and the people. We also are challenged to understand the choices people make as they confront the realities of the Duvalier regime, the political turmoil that followed in its wake and life in the diaspora.

On April 3, 2016, a small group from the local Haitian community met for an engaging discussion of Danticat's book. We helped each other put the pieces of her puzzling tale together and offered pieces of our own stories of Haiti to share.

This was our first of what we hope will be many meetings. Many authors from Haiti and the diaspora are creating fascinating literary works for all to enjoy. After reading *An Untamed State* by Roxane Gay (the third book will discuss later this year), I started asking around for someone to discuss it with. HNGD President Shirley Alce suggested we get something started. Maggy Corkery put together excellent guidelines for the discussion that ensured the conversation was respectful and stayed focused on the book.

While the adults met, many children gathered to read and discuss Danticat's children's story, *The Last Mapou*, illustrated by Edouard Duval. They learned of the importance of the mapou tree to Haitian culture, history and the environment. Danielle Desroches and Dimitri Dauphin were the fearless leaders, showing their commitment to building respect in the next generation for their Haitian heritage.

Our lively group was graciously received by Emanuela DeCenso who kindly arranged for us to use private meeting rooms in Madonna University's library. For our next conversation, we will be discussing *The Aroma of Coffee* by Dany Laferrière. Find a copy to read and come join us! We will announce the next date and time for the discussion at the HNGD board meeting in June. We look forward to seeing you there. ■



Facing camera from the left: Janny Milton, Jan Ulrich, Tania Jean-Jacques, Cicie Hérard and Shirley Alcé Konaté. With back to camera: Maggy Corkery and Marie Noël



Dimitri Dauphin with the children book club participants



Mills Léon reading the Last Mapou

COMMEMORATING HAITI'S INDEPENDENCE

by Rilck Noël and Maggy Corkery

In late January, HNGD celebrated the arrival of the New Year. It was a unique opportunity to remind all who attended how and why Haiti prided its independence from France in 1804. We had quite a large audience partly due to the importance of the topics as well as the offered complimentary squash soup (Soup Joumou) and patties (pâtés).

Shirley Alcé Konaté, Maggy Corkery and Dr. Soledad Nelson reviewed the accomplishments of the organization over the past 2 years. A number of events were highlighted: the Art Fair, Bèl Bagay Lakay, the Parent day celebration that gave our children a platform to pay tribute to their parents, Fathers' day recognition during which some of our well-known fathers reminisced about advices received from their respective fathers, the lecture on mental health issues affecting Haitian American children, and much more. These were presented through a series of pictures showing HNGD and community members enjoying themselves as they engaged in various activities.

Fritz Momplaisir made a presentation that described Haiti's forefathers and their push for independence. He did so in an engaging and interactive manner that allowed participants to share their views on the reasons for Haiti's independence.

Shirley introduced the HNG book club, which will focus on three books by three authors of Haitian descent: Edwidge Danticat, Danny Laferrière and Roxane Gay. Many Members of the audience signed up after being encouraged to join the book club.

The new Treasurer, Janny Milton, spearheaded a membership drive that resulted in some participants joining the organization on the spot. This effort was, however, met with mixed success as the number of actual new members was much lower relative to the size of the audience. If you did not join, what are you waiting for? Do it now!

Without a doubt, the vibrant participation of the audience enhanced the event, contributing to lively and animated exchanges. As you would probably agree, we, Haitians, are generally very demonstrative, irrespective of the matter being discussed. This trait contributed to making the evening quite entertaining!

Professor Guérin Montilus shared his view on the Cuban revolution and expounded on the ongoing benefits that the Cuban people continue to reap from it. His undying love for Cuba was evident in his exposé.

Finally, it was time to draw the curtain on the evening. As everyone prepared to leave, Dr. Alcé thanked Shirley and the rest of the executive team for a job well done. He also invited the audience to contribute financially to HNGD so we can continue to sponsor similar events.

Unbeknownst to the majority of the participants, a small group of volunteers stayed behind to clean up the clubhouse and return it to its pre-meeting condition. They were: Jean-Luc, Shirley, Maggy, Dr. Nelson, Rilck Noël and Reynold Charles among others did all the work. We would be remiss not to recognize those who helped prepare and

serve the food for the event: Marie Carmelle Larochelle, Jacqueline Pierre, Mona Désir, Adeline Auguste, Danielle Sanon, and Marie José Alcé. Kudos to the refreshment crew and the cleaning SWAT team and for a job well done! ■



Fritz Momplaisir, standing, and members of the audience at the Commemorating Haiti event



left to right: Jean Konaté, PR. Guérin Montilus, Raphaël Boli-var, Mohamed Traoré and son Karim Abdoul Traoré



The audience enjoying delicious pâtés and soup joumou



Charles and Carole Wawa



In this section, the public is invited to showcase their literary talent by submitting short stories, plays, poems and essays on topics dealing with Haiti or Haitian experiences. Two HNGD members have decided to break the ice and be the first ones to take the plunge.

BACK IN CONTROL

by Régine Beaubœuf

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Huntington Woods — 9:08PM

As I sit listening to Aretha Franklin's "God will take care of you," I am again reminded how easy we make life for ourselves when we let go, have confidence and follow His will.

For so many days and weeks, I have been stressed. Stressed about the darkness and malevolence of mankind and how it can affect my life. It so happened that the stress was self-imposed and not necessarily brought upon by others. The minute I decided to let go of the ego, listen to wisdom's voice and God's nudging and whispering, everything was alright. Everything fell into place. I kept myself from seeing the sun by wanting to do things my way and showing that I was in control. What foolish garbage. You would think I would know better, but when will I finally learn?

I let something from the office bother me that much. For weeks, I have taken personally the actions posed by others out of the emptiness of their souls and the void in their lives. I need to remember that I have everything, I am equipped to face all of these inconveniences that are placed along my way to help me grow and develop love, compassion and kindness. But more so wisdom, the knowledge that all is well and will remain well. For the entire day, my heart was light, my joy was bubbling and no one and no event could affect my happiness. It is the way it should be. To stand in the light and know, just know that all is well.

I am also finding myself slowly, but surely on the path to forgiveness: letting go of the feeling of unfairness, inequity and injustice. After all, in God's world, who says that

I was slighted and treated in an unjust manner? It is my human limitation that tries to convince me that just because things were not shared equally that it was unfair. What are these things anyways, but material possessions that too shall pass? Who says that I was not given more than a cup full? I have my kids, my health, the touching affection of good friends, the solid love of my parents and siblings, and even a little sum 'thing, sum 'thing from a great lover! What more can a girl ask for? The ecstasy of a spiritual relationship with my maker in whom I believe and find comfort at all times. The wisdom and knowledge that I am loved, guarded and protected. That is all.

May I continue to walk in the light and show gratitude! I love you, God. ■

KREYOL PALE, KREYOL KONPRANN

Here are a few more gems of Haitian wisdom on human experiences. To the linguists out there or anyone else who enjoys sayings, could we have translations or equivalent sayings in English? If you know of a proverb that you would like to share, please e-mail it to dutes@msu.edu.

De je kontre, manti kaba.

Atantion pa kapon.

Twò prese pa fè jou louveri.

Dèyè monn, gen monn .

Until next time, that is all for now. ■

SAVE THE DATE



JULY 29-30, 2017

Bèl Bagay Lakay: Haitian Art & Craft Festival
Saturday July 29 & Sunday July 30, 2017
Riley Park and Sundquist Pavilion Downtown Farmington, MI

A free event for the whole family!



**THANK YOU FOR
HELPING US CELEBRATE**
Bèl Bagay Lakay, a Haitian Art & Crafts Festival
Thank you! Merci! Mèsi!

