

2004 Haiti, 200 years of Independence

On **January 1st 2004**, for the first time in Philadelphia, Haitians from different denominations, members of different organizations in the Delaware valley, leaders from different African countries, friends of Haiti from different parts of the world gathered with **HCCDA** at the Incarnation Church in North Philadelphia for the New Year's Day Mass to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Haiti's Independence. We placed ourselves under a common denominator to pray, to thank God and pay homage to those great black heroes who fought for human rights, liberty, equality and fraternity. Those great heroes went on to create the republic of Haiti that became the first free black republic in the new world. Their names, to name a few, Toussaint Louverture, Francois Capois, Jean Jacques Dessalines, Alexandre Petion, Henry Christophe and Nicolas Geffrard, are for ever scribed in gold letters among the greatest, the most courageous and the most famous people that humanity has ever known.



Haitians and friends of Haiti assisting the New Year's Day Mass at the Incarnation Church in North Philadelphia.



Father Jean Claude Mompoin receiving the gifts during the Mass.

Since its independence Haiti has had internal power struggles compounded with the constant international interference to re-colonize the country to discredit the success of its revolution and reclaim Haiti to subject it back into submission. Haiti did not and will never succumb. In an interview given to the Philadelphia Tribune (Edition published on Friday January 2, 2004) Dr. Michel François, President of **HCCDA**, said: "That is why this year, more so than at any other time, Haitians at home and abroad need to focus on where they want their nation to go". He later added "we fought Napoleon Bonaparte, who had the greatest army at that time, and we won, which showed the determination of the people. We can do it again this time to defeat those odds and bring Haiti to a higher level."

After the Mass, 800 people attended a reception given by **HCCDA** in collaboration with different groups in the community. Mr. Maurice Oreste (host) opened the afternoon ceremony followed by the co-host, Ms. Kathleen Jeanty with the opening remarks. Few Haitian icons in the community did participate, but joining in the celebration was Dr. Clery Fn'Piere, the guest speaker, who took us back to the glorious moments when Haiti won the battle against the French army on November 18th, 1803.



Dr Clery Fn'Piere took us back to the glorious moments and explained the importance of the victory at Vertieres.



Singer Arnold Poinvil transporting the audience to the hot climate of Haiti through his beautiful songs.

The great Haitian singer Arnold Poinvil was able to bring the hot tropical climate to the auditorium through his beautiful songs. Pastors from different churches addressed the community, composer Guiteau Leroy kept the party lively, HYCP (Haitian Youth Culture Progress) and artist dancer Dujour Beaujour enlightened the place with beautiful folkloric dances. Priests and groups from the Catholic Church, Pastors and the faithful from different Churches around the City and friends were all instrumental in the success of the event. We thank them for their efforts and their help. Our Honorary Consul, Mr. Albert Momjian, congratulated the community and asked them to continue to be a model to the other communities. Dr. Jude Iheoma, the chairman of AFRICOM, in his January 1st 2004 speech said, "One day I hope my communities could be as well organized as the Haitian community, but I will say this though, I will definitely use the structure of this community as a model".

The great Rev. Christian Cesar, from the "Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Haitienne", emphasized on working together as did our fathers, by doing this we will then be as successful as them toward realizing our dreams. We also received congratulation letters from different communities around the city and one from the Parliament of Sierra Leone (Africa).



This picture shows the inside view of the auditorium where all the 800 Haitians and friends sat to share those moments and later eat together.

That afternoon, all 800 of us sat and ate together like a big family as we usually do back home. How beautiful it was to laugh with our compatriots and friends, to discuss and talk about our past and even our future. **HCCDA** would like to thank friends and churches for helping and providing enough food to feed all of us. Special thanks go to Father Jean Claude Mompont for allowing us to use the church and the auditorium. **HCCDA** because of these great friends only **spent \$ 975.38**. The following people gave some money to cover the expenses: Dr Michel Francois & family (\$ 640.38), Mr. Giordani Jean Baptiste (\$ 200.00), Mrs. Garcia Claude Bouchereau (\$ 50.00), Mrs. Jocelyne Galette (\$ 50.00) and finally Mrs. Gisele Renaud (\$ 35.00), (see last page for more details).

The Mayor of Philadelphia proclaimed on January 2004, The first week of each year as “Haitian Week” in Philadelphia

On November 2003, members of HCCDA wrote a letter to the city of Philadelphia. The letter emphasized the important roles our Heroes played in the history of the world, mostly, in the development of the United States of America. Nations, these days, are talking about human rights but our heroes who fought at Vertieres were the pioneers of the human rights movement since they were the first to say no to human sufferance, the first to abolish slavery. Therefore, John F. Street, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, so hereby proclaimed the first week of each year as “**Haitian Week**” in Philadelphia on the 200th Anniversary of Haiti’s Independence, and called upon all citizens to welcome our Haitian friends and neighbors in Philadelphia.



Attorney Sharif Street, son of the Mayor of Philadelphia, presenting to Dr. Michel Francois and Mr. Giordani Jean Baptiste the Declaration signed by Mayor John F. Street.



Copy of the Declaration

On **January 9th, 2004** HCCDA received two major documents from Philadelphia, the first Independent City in the US. The first document, A “**Declaration**” signed by Mayor John F. Street and the second, a “**Resolution**” signed by the President of City Council Mrs. Anna C. Verna. Attorney Sharif Street and Councilwoman Jeannie Blackwell presented those documents to Dr. Michel M.A. Francois and Mr. Giordani Jean Baptiste. The resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell and Councilman David Cohen of Philadelphia and sponsored by all the Council members, recognizing the week of December 29, 2003 through January 3, 2004 as “**Haitian Independence Week**” to celebrate Haiti’s 200th Anniversary as an Independent Nation.



Councilwoman, Mrs. Jannie L. Blackwell, presenting to Dr. Michel Francois and Mr. Giordani Jean Baptiste the Resolution signed by the President of City Council, Mrs. Anna C. Verna and accepted by all the Philadelphia City Councils.



Copy of the Resolution

From now on we will celebrate the first week of every year in Philadelphia to commemorate the struggle of those who fought for what we know today as Human Rights. The brave men and women who first said “No” to human suffering and created the first independent black nation in this hemisphere, the first nation to renounce to slavery.

A group of dignitaries from around the world assisted the ceremony at the “Conversation Hall”, City Hall of the City of Brotherly Love. These two documents were given for the first time in US from the authorities of the City of Independence of the US to a Haitian Community organization, **HCCDA**, that has for mission to promote the Haitian Community and culture through various programs and events in Philadelphia and abroad, uplift the Haitian Community so that Haitians can upgrade the quality of their lives through education with the hopes of becoming more productive members of society.



From left to right: Mr. Mark Momjian, (Honorary Consul of Guinea) Mr. Stanley Straughter, Mrs. Tiguida Kaba (from Guinea), Former General Consul Mr. Harry Fouche, Honorary Consul of Haiti Mr. Albert Momjian, Attorney Mr. Sharif Street and City Councilwoman Mrs. Jannie L. Blackwell



From Left to Right: President of the Haitian Community Center Dr. Frantz Latour, Attorney Sharif Street, President of Innerleaf Miss Kathleen Jeanty, Honorary Consul of Haiti Mr. Albert Momjian, City Councilwoman Mrs. Jannie L. Blackwell, Former General consul of Haiti Mr. Harry Fouche Mrs. Gisele Lombard, Mr. Dujour Beaujour and Secretary of HCCDA Mr. Malory Theodore.



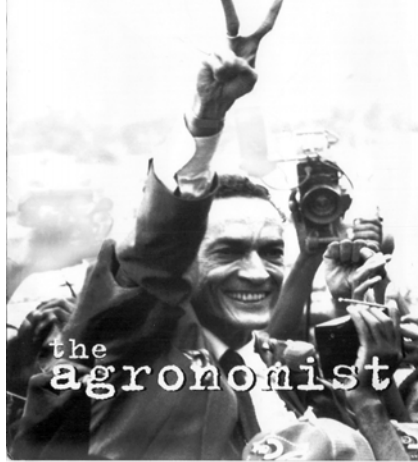
From Left to Right: Attorney Sharif Street, Mr. Erns Borgella, Councilwoman Mrs. Jannie L. Blackwell, President of HCCDA Dr. Michel Francois, Secretary of HCCDA Mr. Malory Theodore, Treasurer of HCCDA Mrs. Gisele Renaud and Mr. Dujour Beaujour.

HCCDA, with the help of few friends, was able to spend only \$ 850.47 for the reception at City Hall (see last page for details).

2004 Presentations

On **April 3rd 2004**, HCCDA teamed up with the Haitian Community Center, managed by one of the greatest leaders in the Haitian Community Dr. Frantz Latour, to present for the first time in the US the documentary film on Jean Dominique, The “Agronomist” by Academy Award-winning director Jonathan Demme. This movie had great success not only in Philadelphia and the US, but also around the world.

SHOWING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN US



A few weeks later, on **April 24th 2004**, the Haitian Community Center and HCCDA teamed up again to present at the International House the “Haitian 2004 Art Show”. Two owners of Haitian art galleries located in Washington DC and Pittsburg, Mr. Fritz Racine and Mr. Bill Bollendorf, respectively presented the “History of Haitian Art”. For the two events, HCCDA and the Community Center of Philadelphia together lost approximately (-\$ 177.79), see details below. Dr. Frantz Latour was instrumental in the realization of both events. Many thanks go again to the famous Haitian guitarist, Mr. Guiteau Leroy, whom once again animated the events.

Movie “The Agronomist”			
Spending		Sale	
Item	Amount	Item	Amount
Food (Pates)	\$ 80.50	Tickets	\$ 900.00
Soda	\$ 50.00	Food/Soda	\$ 189.00
Place	\$ 600.00		
Flyers	\$ 40.00		
Cash (Giordani) as change	\$ 90.00		
Total (out)	\$ 860.50	Total (In)	\$ 1089.00
		Profit	\$ 228.50

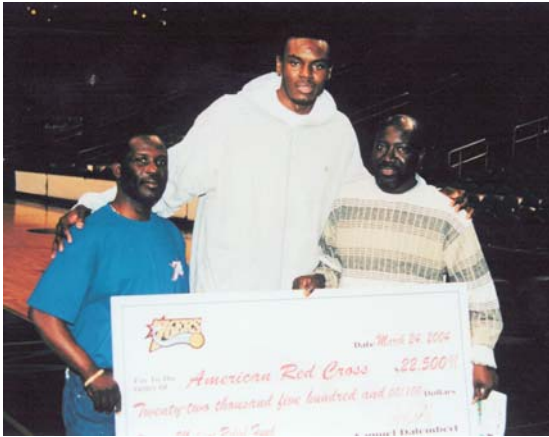
From the profit, \$ 130 were given to Dr. Latour to give as deposit for the place we reserved for the art show and \$ 98.50 + \$ 1.50 = \$ 100.00 were given to Michel for food for the next event.

Art Show 2004 "The History of Haitian Art"			
Spending		Sale	
Item	Amount	Item	Amount
Food (Pates)	\$ 73.79	Profit from Movie	\$ 230.00
Hotel	\$ 159.00	Donation at the door	\$ 20.00
Place	\$ 295.00	Dr. Latour's donation	\$ 100.00
Wine (Dr. Latour donation)	donated		
Total (out)	\$ 527.79	Total (In)	\$ 350.00
		Lost	- \$ 177.79
<p>I have the \$ 20.00 (door) + \$ 26.21 (remaining from the \$ 100.00 given for the food) = \$ 46.21</p> <p>Should we divide the lost between the two groups or between the three of us (Michel, Giordani and Dr. Latour, whom tried so hard. $\\$ 177.79 / 2 = 88.90$ (per group) or $\\$ 177.79 / 3 = \\$ 59.26$ (per friend)</p> <p>We selected the second option, and then Michel and Giordani have to give: $\\$ 46.21$ (Michel) + $\\$ 60.0$ (Michel) + $\\$ 60.0$ (Giordani) = $\\$ 166.21$ to Dr. Latour</p> <p>This amount was mailed to Dr. Latour on 6/16/04 so that all three of us could carry the same lost</p>			

HCCDA would like to express its sincere appreciation to Dr. Frantz Latour and his organization for their efforts and contributions.

Haitian Night at the Wachovia Center (2004)

On April 15th, 2004, HCCDA teamed up with “Meli-Melo” Radio Show hosts, the group “Fraternity Junior” from The Lady of Rosary Church in West Philadelphia and “HYCP” (Haitian Youth Culture Progress) to organize a Haitian night at the Wachovia Center, home of the Philadelphia basketball team “76ers” and hockey team “Flyers”.



Mr. Jocelyn Jean Baptiste (Meli-Melo), Mr. Samuel Dalembert (76ers), Mr. Yvon Desulme (Meli-Melo).

The idea initiated from the group “Meli-Melo” that wanted to continue to lift the name of Haiti who turned 200 years. HCCDA made sure that the night was not just a basketball night but also a night to honor Mr. Samuel Dalembert who is one of the best Haitian athletes around the world playing for the 76ers basketball team. With the help of the Honorary Consul Mr. Albert Momjian (lawyer of the 76ers basketball team and member of the HCCDA Advisory Board), we were able to obtain two suites equipped with private bars and restrooms at the Wachovia center. Each suite could seat 45 people. Food coupons were also given to the Haitian kids. Mr. Albert Momjian purchased a gold-coated basketball trophy to honor Mr. Samuel Dalembert.

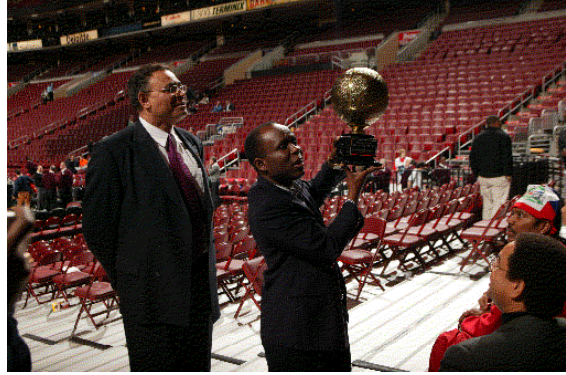
One day before the night, Mr. Albert Momjian contacted the 76ers players including the owner of the team and asked them to donate some money to help Haiti. Mr. Samuel Dalembert donated \$22,500.00 that night to help buy medical supplies for needy kids in Haiti. The other players, the president of the 76ers and other friends contributed \$ 137,500.00 for the same cause the same night. A grand total of \$ 160,000.00 was collected and entirely turned over to the Red Cross at the Wachovia Center just before the game started for the Haitian kids living in Haiti. Our Haitian basketball star, after the game, was then honored by a group of approximately 300 Haitians.



From left to right: Mr. Giordani Jean Baptiste (Owner of EZ Language), Mr. Samuel Dalembert (Center of the 76ers with his check of \$22,500.00), Dr. Michel Francois (President of HCCDA), Mr. Harry Fouche (former general consul of Haiti in New York) and Mr. Albert Momjian (Honorary Council of Haiti in Philadelphia).



Mr. Samuel Dalembert meeting his Haitian friends. That night Mr. Dalembert was selected as "Most Valuable Player" for the game, scoring 22 points and had 16 rebounds.



Mr. Giordani Jean Baptiste showing to the Haitian crowd after the basketball game, the trophy that was presented to Mr. Samuel Dalembert for his achievements.



"Meli-Melo" and the group "Fraternity Junior" from The Lady of Rosary Church in West Philadelphia posing with the trophy that was presented to Mr. Samuel Dalembert



The group HYCP posing with Mr. Samuel Dalembert

2004 Benefit Concert of the Year

On July 25, 2004, **HCCDA** participated in a Fundraising Concert sponsored by “Batey Relief Alliance”, “Partners in Health”, and “Habitat for Humanity” to benefit flood victims in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The benefit concert entitled “Bringing Help and Hope to the People of Haiti” was organized by the Philadelphia-based Academy of Community Music event committee “The Circle of Friends of Haiti”. Another Philadelphia based Haitian group, “Project Compassion”, was also instrumental in the success of this concert and getting the Haitian community involved.



Violinist Mr. Richard Casimir with his mother, Elianie Gaillard-Casimir (@Picture from BRA website)

The idea originated from our compatriot Mr. Richard Casimir (violin teacher), one of the greatest Haitian violinists in the try-state area. He said after the flood: "I thought maybe I could put together some of my students to give a recital, and hoped to raise a few hundred dollars to send to Haiti to provide food and clothes for the flood victims".



Members of the "COFOH" orchestra (@Picture from BRA website)

Richard Casimir's idea snowballed after he made a few phone calls to friends in the music field and the community. Robert de Pasquale, a retired member of the Philadelphia Orchestra, signed on, as did his brother William, assistant concertmaster. In no time a great number of musicians not only from the Philadelphia Orchestra but also from New Jersey, Boston and Minnesota included our great Haitian conductor Mr. Raoul Perrault. **HCCDA** and “Project Compassion” decided also to help Richard realize his dream. "I am indebted to this country for letting me make my life here," Casimir said. "But we must share what we have or we will perish together."

Under the direction of Dr. Ronald Matthews and Jean Raoul Perrault this group of musicians performed one of the greatest concerts ever in Willow – Grove at the Calvary Presbyterian Church located at 405 N. Easton Road Willow Grove PA 19090 on July 25, 2004 at 6:30 PM.



Concertmaster, R. William De Pasquale, conductor Jean 'Rudy' Perrault, cellist Ulrick Gaillard (Executive director of BRA). (@ Picture from BRA website).

Mr. Jean Mary Viau put together a beautiful exhibition of Haitian art. An approximate sum of \$ 12,000.00 was raised that night. This amount of money was collected by “Batey Relief Alliance” and distributed among “Batey Relief Alliance”, “Partners in Health”, and “Habitat for Humanity” to help the flood victims in Haiti. **HCCDA** did not want any share of that money. The three organizations that received the money have already established themselves in Haiti so they would know our to better utilize it. **HCCDA's** mission as of now is to promote the Haitian Community and Culture through various programs and events in Philadelphia and abroad.



Dr. Michel M.A. Francois, Mr. William Moyer (former personnel manager of the Boston Symphony), Dr. Michele J. Francois, Mrs. Esther Momjian, Mr. Albert Momjian (Honorary Consul of Haiti in Philadelphia), Conductor Jean Raoul Perrault. (@ Picture from BRA website).

About our great Haitian Conductor and composer:



Conductor and composer, Jean R Perrault is Director of Orchestras and professor of violin/viola at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD). At UMD Rudy coaches chamber music, conducts both the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, teaches string techniques and the fundamentals of conducting.

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, he earned his Master's degree in performance from Temple University in Philadelphia. He moved to the New York area and became assistant conductor of the New York Symphonic Arts Ensemble while maintaining his post as Principal Guest Conductor of the Holy Trinity Philharmonic Orchestra. He has participated in many prestigious music festivals including Aspen, Tanglewood, Chautauqua. Rudy keeps an active schedule and has performed with many different organizations including the Duluth-Superior Symphony in Duluth, the New York Virtuosi, the New York Pops, the Vermont Mozart Festival Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Virtuosi, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Philly Pops and the Broadway show "Beauty and the Beast". The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Holy Trinity Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as the New York City Housing Authority Orchestra have performed his compositions.

The past several years he has been editing and orchestrating the piano works of Haitian Classical Composers. He recently completed "Exodus", a commission for the Borromeo String Quartet and is working on his second Quartet while completing his "Missa" (a work for full orchestra).

Campbell Soup Foundation
Helps the 2004 Hurricane victims in Haiti.

Mr. Albert Momjian, member of the HCCDA Advisory Board, wrote a letter to the Campbell Soup Foundation about helping the Haitian victims from the 2004 hurricane disasters in Haiti. The letter was well received and Mrs. Jessica Gonzalez Joseph, Campbell Soup Foundation Program Director replied as follow: Here is an account of our efforts to help the Haitian hurricane victims:

- The Campbell Soup Foundation approved a \$ 1000.00 grant to “Food For The Poor” to aid the organization’s Haiti relief efforts.
- Campbell Soup Company donated palettes of Campbell’s condensed Chicken Noodle and Vegetarian soups, Chunky soup in microwavable bowls and other Campbell products to the organization “Ways To Charity”, who then transported the product to “Food for the Poor’s” Florida distribution center for shipment to Haiti.
- “Campbell’s Away From Home” – Latin America Sales division sent V-8 vegetable juices to Haiti as part of a larger Caribbean hurricane relief effort.

2004 Annual Final Report

Event	Date	gain/loss	Details	<u>Contributed</u>
January 1 st Celebration	01/01/04	- \$ 975.38	Dr. Michel Francois Mr. Giordani J. Baptiste Mrs. Garcia Claude Mrs. Jocelyn Galette Mrs. Gisele Renaud	\$ 640.38 \$ 200.00 \$ 50.00 \$ 50.00 \$ 35.00
City Hall Ceremony	01/09/04	- \$ 850.47	HCCDA (for the Hall) HCCDA (For Food) Dr. Michel Francois Mr. Giordani J. Baptiste Mrs. Gisele Renaud	\$ 250.00 \$ 200.00 \$ 260.00 \$ 100.00 \$ 40.47
Movie “The Agronomist”	04/03/04	+ \$ 228.50	See details on page 5	
Art Show 2004	04/24/04	- \$ 177.79	See details on page 6	
Haitian Night (Wachovia)	04/15/04	+ \$ 160,000.00	Given to the Red Cross to help poor Haitian Kids in Haiti.	
Benefit Concert	05/15/04	+ \$ 12,000.00	Collected by “Batey Relief Alliance” Split among “Batey Relief Alliance, Partners in Health” and “Habitat for Humanity, all already established in Haiti	
Campbell Soup Co.	12/10/04	+ \$ 1000.00 + Food	\$ 1000.00 given to “Food For Poor” for transporting the food to Haiti.	
Total amount of money	=	\$ 171,224.86 + Food		
HCCDA helped to collect for 2004.				

Thanks to you, we could not have done it without you