

Thoughts From the Chairman...

HAITI: From the Context of our 2004 Resolutions

As we step into 2004, HAU Board of Directors wishes a Prosperous and Healthy New Year to all of you. We also wish a HAPPY Bicentennial to each and every person of Haitian descent and those with ties to our motherland.



We would further like to take this momentous opportunity to encourage each and every one of you to reflect not just on your own individual needs in 2004 but also to ask yourself what you can do to help improve life in your community, your country. Just as our family depends on us and vice versa, so too, our community, our country cannot do without the contribution of each of us.

As co-architects of our own destiny, we overtly or covertly use the New Year to make our vows for better life's opportunities for ourselves and our families. Then, in the days, weeks and months to follow, we move quickly towards prioritizing our goals and objectives. Some of us religiously adhere to these goals, making sure that we fulfill them; others just give up after their first try.

Sometimes, some people don't even bother making New Year Resolutions as if whatever happens, happens. As I am often reminded, there exist three (3) categories of people in life: 1-those who make things happen, 2-those who watch things happen, and 3-those who wonder what happen. You and I can decide in which category we want to be! In the meantime, may I quickly remind you that we cannot sit around and expect someone else to play our part for us.

Today, we are celebrating the Victory of the first ever successful slaves revolution (1804), leading to Haiti's Independence. Our ancestors believed in Freedom and equality for all, and were willing to pay the price. Let us set aside our individual differences and disagreement, or whatever the obstacles and work toward our common goal. Let us make a collective resolution to find which part each of us needs to play in the larger picture.

That is why HAU continues to emphasize the importance for us to build consensus and engage ourselves in constructive dialogues. Our collective resolution within HAU for this New Year reflects in our mission, which is to help improve the quality of life for people of Haitian descent, particularly. We pursue our goals and objectives through education, advocacy, dissemination of information, scholarship opportunities for our young people, partnership with individuals & other community-based organizations both in the Haitian Community and beyond. Together, we can accomplish great things, but divided, we struggle and vanish likewise. If you would like to be a part of this process, HAU extends a personal invitation to you to join our efforts!

Thanks everyone! Peace and God Bless you all.

Eno Mondésir

HAU Chair

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ *Program* ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Mr. Charlot Lucien and Mrs. Maggy Kelly, *Masters of Ceremonies*

FLAG PROCESSION

NATIONAL ANTHEMS:

- ❖ American Anthem, “*The Star-Spangled Banner*”: Haitian-American Marching Band of Boston, Mass.
- ❖ Haitian Anthem, “*La Dessalinienne*”: Haitian-American Marching Band of Boston, Mass.

INVOCATION:

- ❖ Rev. Pierre-Louis Zephir, Pastor of Eglise du Nazaréen des Amis de la Sagesse

MUSICAL SELECTION:

- ❖ *Marche 1804* Haitian-American Marching Band of Boston, Mass.

WELCOMING REMARKS:

- ❖ Eno Mondesir, Chairman, Haitian-Americans United, Inc.
- ❖ Honorable Thomas M. Menino, Mayor, City of Boston
- ❖ State Senator Brian Joyce, Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth Districts State Senator
- ❖ His Excellency Clausel Rosembert, Haitian Consulate General

PERFORMANCE:

- ❖ Barbara Cajuste

GUEST SPEAKER:

- ❖ State Representative Marie St. Fleur, 5th Suffolk District Massachusetts State Representative

PERFORMANCE:

- ❖ Fantezi Kreyol Dance Company
- ❖ Charlot Lucien
- ❖ Emeline Michel

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

- ❖ Rev. Dr. Fritz Fontus, Pastor, Evangelical Baptist Church, Miami, Florida

PERFORMANCE:

- ❖ Sakapfèt of West Roxbury High School

AWARDS & CITATIONS

- ❖ Metane Nerolien
- ❖ Gertrude Delsoin
- ❖ Bernadette Adonis-Colas

PERFORMANCE:

- ❖ Fantezi Kreyol Dance Company
- ❖ Emeline Michel

CLOSING REMARKS

Visit Faustin Photo Service station.

Have your picture made to capture this special moment.

Visit to the art work display of the members of the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts in the lobby.

Part of the proceeds from sales by Faustin Photo Service and the Haitian Artists Assembly will go toward funding the May 2004 Haitian Unity Parade.

***The Haitian Independence Day Gala
2004 is organized by:***

**Haitian-American United, Inc., HAU
Board of Directors**

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Gala 2004 Planning Committee

Honorary Committee:

Co-Chairs:

Dr. Eustache Jean-Louis, Executive Director, CCHER
Shirley Shillingford, President, Caribbean Festival
State Representative Marie St. Fleur, Honorary Co-Chair

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William Dorcena, Deputy Executive Director, Boston
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Acknowledgments

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Harvey J. Bazile Esq.
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Haitian Community Center of New Hampshire
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South Shore Haitians United for Progress
Agape Health Team
Eglise du Nazaréen des Amis de la Sagesse
Haitian American Marching Band

Consulates:

Haiti
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Ecuador

***** *Speakers and Honoree* *****

State Representative Marie St. Fleur *5th Suffolk District Massachusetts State Representative*

Representative St. Fleur was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, representing the 5th Suffolk District in 1999. Gaining 77% of the vote in a hotly contested election Representative St. Fleur is the first Haitian American ever to hold an elected seat in Massachusetts. She currently serves as House Chair for the Joint Committee on Education, Arts, and Humanities. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Representative St. Fleur, earned her J.D. from Boston College Law School in 1987. She later became Chief of the Unemployment Fraud Division for the Office of the Attorney General, and managed a staff of Assistant Attorneys General, investigators and supported personnel in the investigation and prosecution of unemployment fraud. Committed to community service, Representative St. Fleur is a member of the Democratic State Committee, as well as many other various committees. She also serves on the boards of Project Hope, the African American Federation, ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development) and the YWCA of Boston and a trustee of the Boston Bar Foundation. She is the recipient of the Massachusetts School of Law Thurgood Marshall Leadership Award, and she was one of five lawyers featured in a Lawyers Weekly article entitled Up & Coming Lawyers and is currently featured in the International Institute's Dreams of Freedom Exhibit. She is a forceful speaker on a number of issues including education, economic development and political empowerment. A wife and the proud mother of three children, Representative St. Fleur loves to sing and spend time with her family.

Rev. Dr. Fritz Fontus *Pastor, Evangelical Baptist Church, Miami, Florida*

Born in Haiti in 1930, Rev. Fritz Fontus studied civil engineering at the State University in Haiti. After completing three years at Limbe Theological Seminary, Haiti, he traveled to the United States and studied Mathematics in Philadelphia. He went on to receive his Masters in Theology (Magna Cum Laude) from Princeton University and his Doctorate (Ph. D.) in California. In 1983, the Association of Private Universities in Haiti awarded him an Honorary Doctorate for his extensive work as a Minister and Engineer-Architect. Rev. Dr. Fontus has taught Philosophy and the African religions in Haiti, the US and in Africa and in addition, has also authored many books and has given conferences worldwide. He has not only pastored the First Haitian Baptist Church in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, but also, has led the Haitian Baptist Church (The French Congregation) in New York, and the Evangelical Baptist Church of Miami, Florida..

Dr. Eustache Jean-Louis, *Executive Director, CCHER*

Dr. Eustache Jean-Louis is an expert in blending together medical, public health and social disciplines to improve the quality of life of low income and uninsured/undocumented clients. He brings many years of experience working with the Haitian community in the face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and is well known in the Boston AIDS community for his long-term advocacy for getting access for uninsured/undocumented HIV clients. Dr. Jean-Louis received his BA in Biology from Northeastern University in Boston and his M.D. from Cetec University in the Dominican Republic. He subsequently completed his graduate work in Public Health at Boston University School of Public Health. As the present Executive Director of the Center for Community Health, Education & Research (CCHER), with a budget of \$2.4M, he has developed many ancillary and supporting services including community and hospital based case management, home-delivered meal program, housing program, psychosocial education counseling, to name a few. He was two-year Project Director for Boston Healthy Start Initiative. Dr. Jean-Louis has been the recipient of many honors including Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Multicultural AIDS Coalition. He has authored for the Journal of Drugs & Society and co-authored in more than a dozen publications.

***** Artists and Performers *****

❖ **Emeline Michel**

Emeline Michel is beloved by Haitians for combining traditional rhythms with social, political and inspirational content. A captivating performer, versatile vocalist, accomplished dancer, songwriter and producer. She has recorded and appeared on concert stages throughout the Caribbean, Europe, North & South America, and Africa for the past 15 years. She is a member of a new wave of artists emphasize complex themes, conscious lyrics, and a broad palette of musical styles, including the native Haitian compas, twoubadou and rara along with jazz, rock, bossa nova and samba. Born in Gonaives, Haiti, her first experience in music was singing gospel music at the local church. After completing her education, Emeline accepted an opportunity to study at the Detroit Jazz Center and returned to Haiti as a professional musician. Emeline soon released her first album and her subsequent releases established and hailed her as the "new goddess of Creole music". Relocating to France, she became a leading musical icon. From this base, her work quickly spread throughout the French-speaking world and from her album, *Tout Mon Temps*, came her international smash hit *A-K-I-K-O*. While set to an infectious dance groove, the song call's for Haiti to look past the political turmoil that has recently gripped the nation and to return to a time of innocence and joy. Her 1996 release, *Ban'm Pase*, has secured her as one of the leading songwriters in the Haitian Creole language. In 1999 she formed her own production company and released her latest CD, *Cordes et Am*. It became the fastest selling recording in Haiti and one of its songs was selected to represent music from Haiti on two compilations: *Music From the Coffee Lands II* and *French Caribbean*.

❖ **Barbara Cajuste**

Barbara Cajuste, one of the most celebrated singers in the Haitian community has the loyalty of her fans and the respect of her peers. Born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, Barbara began singing in her Church at the age of 13. At 18, she did her first recording with Gerard Renelus Pierre. She traveled with him and sang leads. Barbara not only directed some of his tunes but also changed the genre. In 2000 she began to realize her vision of a new gospel sound in the Haitian community. In her self-titled album, *I Can Imagine*, her tracks infused with an atmosphere of fire and enthusiasm comes through not only in the music but in delivery, attitude and look. Her songs encompass pop, R&B, urban, contemporary Christian, Gospel and inspirational, captivating rhythms and lush strings, full of lyrical depth and melodic richness.

❖ **Fantezi Kreyol Dance Company, Inc.**

A non-profit organization, based in Boston, MA whose membership welcomes all ethnicities; whose purpose is to promote Haitian dance as a cultural and educational tool through workshops, master classes, and performances in the community. They perform under the direction of founder and president, Wilmayer Marcelin.

❖ **Charlot Lucien**

Charlot Lucien is co-founder and co-director of the Haitian Artists Assembly of MA. A storyteller and self-taught artist, he is best known for his stories depicting the social reality of his country and his political caricatures in various newspapers in Haiti during the 80s and 90s. He has release two CDs: *Ti Oma* in 2001 and *Ti Cyprien* in 2003.

❖ **Haitian-American Marching Band of Boston, Mass.**

Founded in 2000, they have participated in the annual Haitian American Unity Parade and Flag raising ceremony in 2001-2002. The band perpetuates the celebration of Haitian historic events in the US with the display of military uniforms and the execution of traditional Marches. Under the direction of Maestro Philip Dumels.

❖ **Sakapfèt Haitian-American Club of West Roxbury High School**

Formerly the Haitian-American Club, this group of upcoming and talented performing young artists was founded in 1989 and has appeared and performed at various venues, including highlighting the Haitian-American Unity Flag Day under the direction of their advisor, Joel Theodat, using various forms of dramatic interpretations. But, most importantly, they specialize in promoting Haitian pride and educating their peers at West Roxbury High School.



Haitian-Americans United, Inc. (HAU)

Mission

HAU is a non-profit organization, working to improve the quality of life for Haitians and Haitian-Americans in Massachusetts and Haiti through education, social economic empowerment and cultural development.

Goals

- Advocate and educate the community on civil and human rights issues.
- Facilitate a greater collaboration among Massachusetts's Haitian organizations.
- Promote the Haitian Culture.
- Institute a scholarship fund named after General Toussaint Louverture.
- Encourage unity among Haitians

***** Upcoming Events!! *****

May 14, 2004
May 16, 2004

Flag Raising ceremony in front of Boston City Hall
Haitian American United Parade (Blue Hill Avenue)
Mattapan Sq. to Franklin Field

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