



NEWSLETTER

“Leh wi ep wisef”



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President's Welcome

I am incredibly excited to officially begin my term as president of KDU-NE and to promote the mission and goals of the organization. I am honored and grateful to work with the Executive committee and members. 2019 will be one of reinventing and solidifying the strong foundation that was created in 2009. First, I would like to thank our outgoing president, Melbourne Garber, for his leadership.

For our current and prospective members, I want to assure you that the intention of the new Executive Committee is to keep the NE Chapter vibrant and responsive. The Executive Committee plans to grow with you and continue to provide you nothing less than the best.

As we look back into the past, while moving forward to the future, we strive to fulfill our mission and goals. A New Year - 2019 – has begun and we take pleasure in wishing everyone good health, peace and success in all you do this year and beyond. It is a great opportunity to also extend our thanks for your support of the Krio Descendants Union Northeast. In providing the financial support needed to fulfill our mission and to achieve our goals. I hope you will continue your support.

Generous donations from you provide the financial support needed to fulfill our mission and achieve our goals.

I want to encourage every member to participate actively in the chapter. There are so many opportunities to share your knowledge and talents and help make it even better. The Chapter offers several committees that you can volunteer for.

They include:
Welcoming • Hospitality • Finance •
Planning • Young Adults

Once again, I say a big thank you.

Roland Roberts
President



OUR MISSION

Krio Descendants Union Northeast is an active and integral part of Krio Descendants Union Global which now comprises 13 chapters including the parent chapter in Freetown and chapters in the United Kingdom and Canada.

The mission of Krio Descendants Union Global is to provide a unifying voice for the Krios while promoting and preserving our history, culture and heritage through reflection, education, and charitable giving.

The following Krio Descendants Union chapters are now in existence:

1. KDY Freetown (Parent Body)
2. KDU Texas
3. KDU Northeast (NY/NJ/CT)
4. KDU Georgia
5. KDU New England, MA
6. KDU North Carolina
7. KDU Young Adults (KDUY)
8. KDU United Kingdom
9. KDU United California
10. Krio Diaspora United, Toronto, Canada
11. KDU Maryland
12. KDU Florida
13. KDU Southeast Pennsylvania

In addition to the Global mission, the purpose and mission of Krio Descendant Union Northeast is to provide Krios with a forum for collective cultural expression, a conduit for channeling Krio concerns and participation in the general affairs of Sierra Leoneans in the Diaspora and in Sierra Leone and to raise funds to effect its goals and mission.

The following goals shall be established to accomplish the organization's mission:

1. Develop, support and interact with other Krio organizations in Sierra Leone, the United States and around the world to promote the language, culture, history and their concerns.
2. Develop a network of professionals and entrepreneurs to promote economic development and growth within the Krio community locally and at large.

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On May 5, 2018, the Organization held elections to elect members of the new Executive Committee in adherence to its By-laws. The results of the election were as follows:

- President: Mr. Roland Roberts
Vice President: Alhaji Brima Rahman
Secretary: Mrs. Ayodele House
Treasurer: Mrs. Iris Max-MacCarthy
Assistant Treasurer: Ms. Agatha Pratt
Social Secretary: Mrs. Edith Pratt-Davies
Assist. Social Sec.: Mrs. Dorothea Allen
Young Adults Leader: Ms. Nkechi Fyle
Auditor: Mr. Rudolph Jackson

The Committee was installed on October 7th 2018. Its term runs from May 2018 to April 2020.



Ex Officio members include:
Mr. Melbourne Garber, Ms. Gloria Allen, Ms. Eugenia Chinsman
Ms. Martha Johnson, Ms. Pauline Pratt

The new KDU Global representatives are:
Mr. Roland Roberts, Alhaji Brima Rahman, Ms. Nkechi Fyle
Alternates:
Ms. Agatha Pratt, Ms. Ayodele House

2017-18 FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

LUNCHEON SALE

As one of its fund raising activities, KDU NE held its first luncheon sale on May 13, 2017 in New Jersey. There was very good turnout and generated a lot of interest and financial support.

2017 GLOBAL FAMILY REUNION

KDU NE hosted the annual KDU Global family reunion (for the second time) in New Brunswick, New Jersey in September 2017, Labor Day Weekend.



2017 Global Family Reunion
with Mama Messeh 2nd from right first row



2017 Global Family Reunion
Young Adults

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The chapter held its ninth annual Thanksgiving Service on October 7, 2018 at Christ Episcopal Church, New Brunswick. The theme for the Thanksgiving Service was "Stewardship".
The guest preacher was Rev. Raymond Max-Jones.



KDU's future generation
at the Thanksgiving Service



Our Aku Muslim members held prayers on the same day at the Islamic Society of Franklin Township. The officiating Imam was Alhaji Abdulai Karim Savage.

KDU YOUNG ADULTS' ACTIVITIES

The Young Adults' wing of KDU-NE is an extension and very important part of KDU-NE. To date the group comprises 20 members. It is a vibrant group eager to learn about the Krio culture and how to anticipate the challenges to be confronted as grownups. They are the next generation that will need to preserve and pass down the Krio culture and traditions to the generation after them. They will be able to continue building a strong community.



Our Young Adults at their Meet & Greet



Friendsgiving & Game Night



Young Adults sharing what they are thankful for at the Friendsgiving & Game Night



Young Adults & cooking instructor Mrs. Edith Pratt Davies



In September 2018, the group held a Meet and Greet in Teaneck, NJ, where Young Adults were able to socialize and fellowship. In October 2018 a cooking class was held in Piscataway, NJ, where Mrs. Edith Pratt-Davies instructed Young Adults on how to prepare Crain Crain soup and Foofoo. Following this in November 2018, a Friendsgiving and Game Night took place in Brooklyn, NY. The Young Adults each provided a dish to share and games were played. A great time was had by all in attendance. We are looking forward to more fundraising efforts and educational opportunities in 2019.

CONGRATULATIONS



In November 2018, Lawyer Leon Jenkins Johnston, Vice President of KDU Freetown, was appointed as Ombudsman of Sierra Leone by the President of Sierra Leone, H.E. President Maada Bio.



In December 2018 Mr. Collins Brian Pratt received the award of the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) for services to Music in the West African community in South London. – The London Gazette.

OUR DEPARTED



We lost our chapter matriarch, Mrs. Phebean Messeh on May 25, 2018.

KDU-NE SUPPORTED PROJECTS TO DATE IN FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE AND THE U.S.

2011

Supported reconstruction of St. Michael's Church vicarage in Waterloo destroyed during the rebel war

2013

Provided books and other materials for the children's library of the Sierra Leone Library Board

Supported affected Sierra Leoneans during Hurricane Sandy in NY

2014

Provided scholarships for 18 school girls at the FAWE School at Waterloo

Made a donation towards the Sierra Leone Children's Library

Made a donation to EBOLA Virus Epidemic in Sierra Leone

2017

Health Outreach, Freetown as part of the Global projects

2018

Health Outreach, Freetown as part of the Global projects

Donated several barrels of books, clothing, and other materials for distribution to three private schools.

- i. Murray Deen Preparatory School
- ii. The Leone Preparatory School
- iii. The Mereweather Preparatory School.

Related donation article

“KDU Donates Children’s Books to Three Schools” By Stephen V. Lansana

Krio Descendant Union (KDU) on Wednesday August 1, 2018, donated Children’s books to three preparatory schools - Murray Deen Preparatory School, Leone Preparatory School and Mereweather Preparatory School in Freetown.

The president of KDU together with the Social Secretary and the Assistant Secretary General facilitated the distribution of the books to the various school authorities. KDU in Freetown is the parent body of the union. It has nine branches in America, one in Britain and Canada.



The President of KDU, Mrs. Cassandra Garber, said that the North-East branch of the Union in New York and New Jersey have a favourite focus to provide library books for children in the country. “This year, the books are for primary school children. We decided to donate it to three schools in Freetown that have Library facilities.”

According to the president, the Union also gives scholarship to children, with a particular preference to children in the rural areas: Waterloo, Newton, and Regent, among other communities.

She said that the members in the Diaspora usually support Sierra Leoneans and that the Texas Branch in America spent about Le40 million to

rehabilitate a health center in York Village.

The Director of the Leone Preparatory School, Dr Brian Conton, said he was very happy for the donation. He said that reading is an integral part of their school curriculum, adding that they usually allow children to take the books home. He disclosed that he was surprised when Mrs. Garber told him that they had a donation to make to his school.

The co-founder and co-head mistress of Murray Deen Preparatory, Leticia Harding thanked KDU for donating textbooks. She said that she usually encourages children to read textbooks.

“The children love reading,” she said, adding that there are two libraries in the school that are open to all the children in the school. She said that the older children usually borrow books for their home reading and return them after two weeks.

The Managing Partner of Mereweather Preparatory School, Mr. Olu Fashole-Luke, said that they have just reorganized their school library. Library is very importance component of the school. He said that he was not expecting the donations, adding that the donation was a pleasant surprise.

Donation of books to Library

2019 PROJECTS TO SUPPORT

KDU-NE will continue to support educational projects as well as:

The Sierra Leone Children's Library

The Annual Health Outreach in Freetown as part of KDU Global
Cassandra Garber Scholarship Fund

Expressed needs of local (Freetown) church and mosque

2018 KDU GLOBAL FAMILY REUNION

The 2018 Annual Family Reunion hosted by KDU UK was held in Croydon, UK from August 30 to Sept 2. Below are photos of our KDU NE members who participated at the event.



SAVE THE DATE 2019

Saturday, April 27
Family Picnic, Grove 1, Johnson Park, NJ

Saturday, July 6
Luncheon Sale/Fashion Show/
Africana Night

Friday, Aug 30 – Sunday, Sept 1
KDU Global Reunion – Boston, MA

Sunday, October 13
Thanksgiving Service

Saturday, December 7
Dinner dance

v If os nɔ sɛl yu, trit nɔ go bay yu

English translation: If the house did not sell you out, the street will not buy you

Meaning: Divulging a secret about someone can be devastating; especially from a trusted friend or relative

v ɔrinch nɔ dae bia lem -

English translation: Oranges will never bear lime

Meaning: The child's behavior is no different from that of her parents

v Fɔdom fɔ mi a fɔdom fɔ yu

English translation: You fall for me, I fall for you

Meaning: Simply to reciprocate.

v Kombra fɔl nɔ de jomp fia

English translation: Mother hen does not jump over fire.

Meaning: A mother with children does not take tragic risks.

Be wary of how you conduct yourself, otherwise your actions might come back to bite you.

v Ren nɔ de fɔdom na wan man domot

English translation: The rain does not fall on one man's door step.

Meaning: Don't celebrate the misfortunes of someone else; yours might be around the corner

v ɔkrɔ nɔ de langa pas in masta

English translation: The Okra tree is never taller than the grower.

Meaning (ambiguous) –no matter how tall the okra tree, at time of harvest the owner can pull it down,

A child will always be a child to his/her parents.

v Udat trowe asis na in asis go fala

English translation: When you throw ash, the ashes flies right back at you

Meaning: The evil that men do lives after them.

What goes around comes around

v Shot at man nɔ de joyn kaka dɛbul

English translation: An impatient person does not join in a masquerade

Editorial Committee:

Agatha Pratt

Gloria Allen

Brima Rahman

Iris Max-MacCarthy

Ayodele House

Christo Davies

Nkechi Fyle