



NEWSLETTER

“Leh wi ep wiseŋ”



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LEARN KRIO

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=jycdrjPTJSQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jycdrjPTJSQ)

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=n8CPFMIT8L4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8CPFMIT8L4)

President's Welcome

Fellow KDU Members, donors, supporters and friends
It gives me great pleasure to present our second Newsletter. My appreciation and thanks to our brilliant and able editorial team. Thank you for your time, energy, interest and talent in continuing to do this great work.

Since our last Newsletter, we have organized a family picnic which was also a recruitment drive. To date, we have welcomed 15 new members who are currently in good standing. Please know that you are now a part of the growing family of the Krios of KDU Northeast. I hope you will each endeavor to join one of our many committees to serve in some capacity or another. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome and you will always have a home with us. Summer is almost here. Schools are already closed for the summer break and we are ready to bask in the sunshine, take vacation and enjoy family and friends get-togethers.

Congratulations to all graduates of 2019 and on behalf of the KDU Northeast family, I wish you success in your future endeavors. Do remember, you are standing on the shoulders of many before you and KDU Northeast will be here to cheer you on every step of the way. For those who will be traveling I wish you safe journey. We are looking forward to our cultural event scheduled for July 6 under the able leadership of our Social Committee. We need all hands on deck to ensure a successful outcome.

We call on our donors to continue to support us in our efforts. Thank you all, once again, for your support and for making this organization stronger and better every day.

Roland Roberts
President



KDU NORTHEAST CELEBRATED 58 YEARS OF SIERRA LEONE'S INDEPENDENCE ON APRIL 27, 2019

Northeast members, their families and friends gathered in droves for a family picnic at Johnson Park, Piscataway, New Jersey to celebrate this important and happy occasion. We even had newly born triplets joining us. It was a chilly day but the sun peeked during the afternoon.

The colorful green, white and blue Sierra Leone flag and balloons that draped the huge area of the park beckoned to participants. Tables full of a variety of Krio foods were spread out on decorative tables and an open invitation to share food with each other. There was, as expected, our rich Sierra Leone music featuring old and new songs. A table draped with Sierra Leone cultural attire and jewelry for those wishing to purchase them was available.

Our KDU Young Adults took on an active role and used the occasion to conduct fundraising for their group by selling reasonably-priced items such as coconut cake, rice bread, pancake, red devil cake, etc. There was also a vendor's table for those who preferred not to cook at home to buy foofoo, cassava bread, fry fish, etc. Comedian Mr. Michael Conteh, formerly of the 'professionals' entertained everyone getting the audience into deep belly laughter.

Guests and visitors expressed their appreciation for the Organization and for bringing such a large group together. A very encouraging highlight of the day was the recruitment of fifteen new members into the Chapter. Our thanks go to the Social and Hospitality Committee for organizing this most successful event.

KDU NORTHEAST YOUNG ADULTS CORNER

In February 2019 the KDU Young Adults hosted a successful Valentine's Day Fundraiser, entitled "Love Wae Sweet So". Care packages containing a basket of goodies were mailed out to supporters and their special some ones throughout the USA.

In March 2019, an Educational Event was held in Franklin Park, NJ. Mrs. Iris Max-MacCarthy, Ms. Gloria Allen, and, Mr. Christo Davies, all KDU Northeast members, educated the Young Adults on traditional Krio engagements, weddings and funerals.

A Bake Sale fundraiser took place at the Independence Day Picnic on April 27, 2019. Patrons were able to purchase both traditional and non-traditional baked goods. The Bake Sale was a success and we look forward to using the proceeds to support a philanthropic event later in the year.



Triplets Mason, Miles and Maxwell graced the family picnic. They are starting early!



KDUYA busy with their wares for fund raising.



BUNCE ISLAND

Why I am Helping to Preserve the Bunce Island Slave Castle. Contributed by Melbourne Garber

In order to address the title above, I have to give a short history of Bunce Island and its role in the transatlantic slave trade.

Bunce Island marks the transition between the deep water harbor and the shallower Rokel River and Port Loko Creek. This unique natural

circumstance is what made this island so valuable to the British during the transatlantic slave trade. Enslaved Africans were transported from the hinterland in canoes and shallow boats and traded at the castle. Many were also brought to Bunce Island from outlying trading posts as far as 200 – 300 miles away. Between 1625 and 1810 over 625,000 enslaved Africans from what was called the Rice Coast were transported across the Atlantic. About half of them were taken directly from Sierra Leone. Amazingly, about 60% of the Sierra Leonean captives were transported between 1750 and 1800.

After this significant human trafficking from Sierra Leone, it was to Sierra Leone in 1792 that over 1,100 freed black slaves from Nova Scotia returned to and established what is now Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. Some of these

returned Africans may have originally been captured in the hinterland of Sierra Leone. Two years after

Freetown had been established; it was attacked and pillaged by the French, who also destroyed the slave castle at Bunce Island. Despite the few British abolitionists who helped resettle first the Black Poor and then the black Nova Scotians in Sierra

Leone and railed against slavery, it was still a significant and profitable operation for the Europeans, including the British. Thus, by 1796, just 2 years after the French attack, a new slave castle had been built at Bunce Island. Perhaps most ironic and inconceivable of all, is that this slave castle was re-built with the labor of many of the Nova Scotian Settlers. Bunce Island would continue

forgotten until it was mentioned in local papers in the 1920's and then again in 1947 by Dr. M.C.F. Easmon, founder of the Sierra Leone Museum and the Monuments and Relics Commission, who listed it as the country's first historic site.

Historically, Sierra Leone is the only place in Africa that was not only central to the transatlantic slave trade to America, but where the first freed slaves from America returned to, in effect completing the circle. It is the only place in the world that has an existing slave fort that was built by freed

slaves and where concurrent with creating a haven for freed slaves was actively trafficking in enslaved Africans.

Bunce Island is an important and crucial component of one of the most atrocious periods in human history. Sierra Leone needs to preserve the

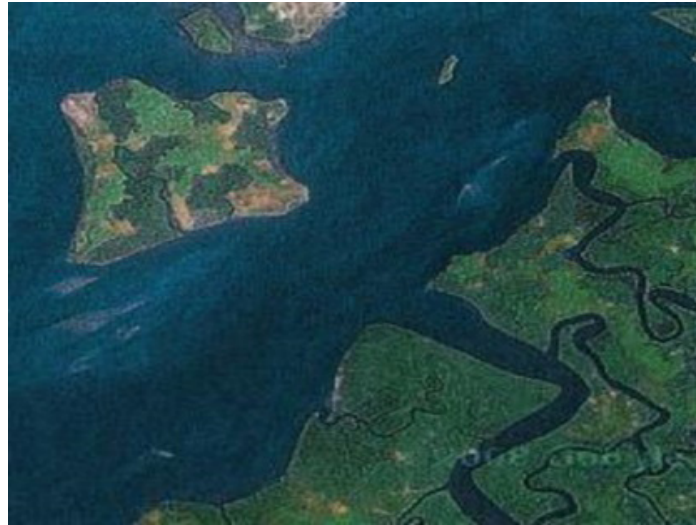
ruins of the slave castle at Bunce Island for posterity, not out of a macabre desire to showcase the slave trade, but because it has so much history related to slave trade. It is also important because the existing fort was built by our ancestors, the first diasporans to return to Africa and because it needs to be a destination for African-Americans who discover their ancestry to Sierra Leone, to show them where their ancestors most likely last stepped off the African coast.



Bunce Island circled in blue

BUNCE ISLAND- continued

Over the last 12 years since I was introduced to the condition of the Bunce Island Slave Castle, I have had the very good fortune and privilege of being involved with the efforts to preserve and stabilize it. These efforts are ongoing to ensure that it is preserved for posterity and the Relics Commission must be commended for their support in making this happen. Credit also has to be given to the US government and its embassy in Sierra Leone and the World Monuments Fund who have provided the funding for the current preservation efforts that I have been a central part of respectively. Unfortunately, because of non-disclosure agreements with the World Monuments Fund, I am unable to provide progress pictures of our



about the history of slavery in North America but it is

Bunce Island is not merely between Sierra Leone and the despicable history of the slave trade. In Sierra Leone it started with this tiny island that had the mishap or misfortune of being so strategically located in this vast ocean of the transatlantic slave trade that it has forever impacted the history of both the old and the new worlds.

“Krio Na Nation! A Vision of the Future of Krio Language and Culture through Vistas of a Prismatic Past” - Tom Spencer-Walters, Ph.D.

- Contributed by Iris Max-MacCarthy

1. The Black Poor - (328+) (London—1787)	2. The Nova Scotians (2,000) (Canada 1787)	3. The Jamaican Maroons (556) (1800)	4. Liberated Africans (60,000) (1808-1863)
<p>Western Areas Set up communities around Cotton Tree (central) Sojaton Water Quay Portuguese Town (around prisons) Tower Hill Banana Island Bunce Island York</p> <p>57-70 Whites (wives/girl-friends) Black loyalists who travelled to England to petition their plight</p> <p>Granville Town (“Province of Freedom”)</p>	<p>Western Areas Central Freetown Regent Leicester Tower Hill Grassfields (Akani) (between Campbell St./Sanders St.) Kroo Town Portuguese Town Banana Island Bunce Island Hamilton (Kangbe) Lumley (Pasande)</p> <p>Prominent Nova Scotians today: The Staffords, the Zizers, the Easmons, the Moores, the Peters, the Wil-loughbys, the Turners, Arthur Porter, Cox George</p>	<p>Western Areas Mostly, Regent Leicester Gloucester Maroon Town (Westmoreland St.) Portuguese Town Charlotte Bunce Island Freetown York King Town Wilberforce Maroon Island (near Kent)</p>	<p>Eastern Areas Foulah Town Kossoh Town (Hastings/East End) Magazine Cut Leicester Kissy Wellington Hastings Waterloo Songo Grafton Gloucester Lumley Wilberforce Kroo Town Bambara Town Bathurst</p>

DISCOVERING KRIO SIMILARITIES WITH THE GULLAHS

-Contributed by Gloria Allen

A tour to Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina was an eye opener. It gave me an insight into the world of the Gullahs. I was captivated by the history, religion, art, culture, and language of this group of people whose lineage stemmed from Sierra Leone and the West African sub region.

The history of the Gullahs started at the shores of Bunce Island in Sierra Leone where captured slaves were transported by slave ships directly to the rice plantations in Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina.

The importance of preserving Bunce Island's history cannot be overemphasized. One of our stalwarts at the Krio Descendants Union Northeast, Mr. Melbourne Garber, has given talks at the United Nations and at a donor's meeting at the Empire State Building to articulate the need to rehabilitate and preserve this slave site. According to Mr. Garber, the efforts to preserve and stabilize for posterity are ongoing. The Monuments and Relics should be commended for their efforts and dedication towards Bunce Island.

When these slaves arrived in the Georgia and South Carolina, it was apparent that they couldn't speak English and neither could they communicate in their individual languages that gave them identity. In the process, they created their own Creole language, which was an amalgamation of words from their individual African languages. This distinctive dialect emerged as Gullah language.

Gullah Language

In the 1930s a linguist, Dr. Lorenzo Dow Turner who identified the African influences in the Gullah dialect decided to embark on a research. He started his assignment in South Carolina and Georgia Low Country and extended it to Sierra Leone, in Africa and Brazil in South America and other areas where there were Creole and other African languages. His work created a great influence in the Gullah Language and also gave birth to African American studies. He also helped expand connections when Roosevelt University was a training center for Peace Corps who travelled to Sierra Leone as volunteer teachers.

It is remarkable that there are striking similarities that exist between Krio and Gullah in religion, culture, art, and language. From the pages of the Bible to individual vocabularies, below it is evident that African languages were fragmented and fused with the dominant English, and Gullah emerged as a dialect.

Luke 1:79

Krio Baybul – Di Nyu Testament

Da san de go shayn pan den pipul we de na dak en we want day, en i go mek wi get kol at.

Gullah Bible – De Nyew Testament

Dat light gwine shine pon all de people wa lib een de daak shada ob det. E gwine hep we waak een a peaceable way.

English Bible – The New Testament

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Krio	Gullah	English
Uman	Ooman	Woman
Udat	Oomuch	Who
Sista	Tituch	Sister
Enti	Enty	Is it
Doclin	Day clean	Dawn
Jepe	Krakteet	Talk
Nyam nyam	Nyam	Food
dəm bɔbɔ dɛm	Da boy dem	The boys
kɛr mi om	Come kyah me home	Come carry me home
Yeri	Yeri	Hear

Sweet Grass Weaving

Basket Weaving is common everywhere in Sierra Leone and other African countries as it is in Gullah Land. The Gullahs are ever so grateful to their grand ancestors for their economic survival. They have embraced this craft as a historically significant example of African cultural heritage that was transported across the Atlantic by enslaved Africans. Basketry is one of the oldest African crafts in America that came to South Carolina during the late 17th century. The very first basket made was the 'fanner' used for winnowing rice. The sweet grass basket weaving, as it's called, is viewed as a gift from God.

-Source: Cited online from University of Chicago magazine Nov-Dec 2010 and Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum Word, Shout, Song: Lorenzo Dow Turner

DID YOU KNOW?

Freetown was 227 years old on March 11, 2019

Freetown was founded by the British Naval Lieutenant John Clarkson and freed American slaves from Nova Scotia on the 11th day of March 1792. He later became the first Governor of Sierra Leone. The event was marked with a Thanksgiving Service under the large cotton tree. The land was dedicated and named Free Town.

CONGRATULATIONS



James Cleverly MP whose mother Evelyn Cleverly (nee Auber) was a Sierra Leonean became the first British MP of Sierra Leone descent to be appointed Minister.

He was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union.

The latest news carried by major UK news media is that Mr. Cleverly has launched a bid to become the next Conservative leader – the eleventh MP to enter Tory leadership race.

DO YOU KNOW THE NAMES OF THESE PRINT DESIGNS? NAME THEM IF YOU CAN.



No. 1



No. 2

Check the next issue of the Newsletter for the answers.



Isaiah Washington was the first African-American to be granted dual citizenship in 2010/11.

American actor Isaiah Washington had his DNA analyzed in 2005. He found that his ancestors hailed from the Mende tribe of Sierra Leone.


He traveled to Sierra Leone to help its people. He founded the Gondobay Mango Foundation to help rebuild Sierra Leone; one village at a time.

Congratulations to all our KDU young adults, children and grandchildren of KDU members who graduated this year. We pray God's blessings on their future endeavors.

UPCOMING EVENTS JULY-DECEMBER 2019


Saturday, July 6 –Africana Extravaganza

Friday, August 29 – Sunday, September 1
– KDU Global Reunion – Boston, MA



Dis Na Tem Fɔ Enjo
**Krio Descendant Union
Northeast**

*will be hosting an
Africana Extravaganza*



*on Saturday, July 6, 2019
at the 4H Youth Center, 645 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick, NJ
08816.*

*There will be plenty of entertainment, good music, dancing,
raffle, cultural dance, and much more.*

*Mouthwatering Food and Drinks are available at affordable
prices.*

*Come and Enjoy Yourself from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Don't forget, it's Summer!!!*



KRIO DESCENDANTS UNION WORKING TO SUSTAIN A CULTURE

SAVE the DATE
**The Original KRIO DESCENDANT UNION
2019 Annual Family Reunion
Labor Day Weekend
(August 29th - September 1st 2019)
In The Fabulous City Of
Boston, Massachusetts**



"Preserving Our Culture For Endless Possibilities"

More information? Please contact any KDU member of the following chapters:

**KDU Dallas, KDU Freetown, KDU Florida, KDU Georgia, KDU Houston, KDU London,
KDU Maryland, KDU Northeast, KDU North Carolina, KDU New England,
KDU Southeast Pennsylvania, Krio Diaspora United (KDU) Southern Ontario,
Krio Diaspora United California and KDU Young Adults**

Psssst...

**If you experienced or heard about London
you're in for a spectacular time in Boston!!
Meet old friends, make new ones while expanding your heritage!!**

Sunday, October 13 – KDU Northeast Thanksgiving Service, Brooklyn, NY

Saturday, December 7 – KDU Northeast Dinner dance (TBD)

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 ɔrinɔ nɔ de bia lɛm

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 fya

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 domɔt

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 plant is never taller than the grower.

Meaning (ambiguous) –no matter how tall the okra plant, 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: If you empty a dustpan of ashes, the wind blows the ashes back on you.

Meaning: The evil that men do lives after them. (what goes around comes around?)

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Nkechi Fyle

Your donation, however small, to help defray the costs of production and printing of these Newsletters will be much appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Krio Descendants Union Northeast. In the memo of the check please write 'Newsletter' and mail check to the Treasurer

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tax-deductible.

