



KRIO DESCENDANTS UNION NORTHEAST (KDU-NE)

“Le wi ep wisef”

Newsletter

Edition 4

January-December 2020

2020!

A CHALLENGING YEAR LIKE NO OTHER!

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Fellow KDU Members, donors, supporters and friends, it gives me great pleasure to present our chapter’s Fourth Newsletter. I am proud of our editorial team and their commitment to keeping our readers informed about the Organization’s activities as well as sharing news about our beloved Sierra Leone.

2020 was challenging to say the least; especially in terms of raising funds and social gathering. In spite of the difficulties, we managed to achieve our goals in 2020. As we all know, because of the COVID pandemic, the country experienced serious lockdowns with travel and social gatherings severely restricted. At the end of March, the Executive Committee voted to cancel all in-person events and obtain a Zoom account as the infected Covid-19 cases were rising and restrictions were expanding. In April the Chapter held prayers for those affected by the virus, especially those of our members in the health profession.

In May KDU NE conducted its general election for 2020 - 2022 term using an internet platform. All former Executive members were re-elected except for the Assistant Secretary who decided to step down due to other commitments. Ms. Sana Smith was elected to the position of Assistant Secretary and Mr. Melbourne Garber, who later resigned due to unforeseeable circumstances; Mrs. Gloria Allen and Mr. Christo Davies were elected to the archivist positions.

Our Annual Thanksgiving Service, whose theme was ‘Reclaim the Connection’, was held via Zoom with about 100 people in attendance. Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to connect to social media and so could not realize greater participation.

In December, KDU NE delivered books, book bags, computers, white boards, and educational toys to the Sierra Leone Children’s Library in Freetown. On Christmas Day we provided dinner for the residents of the King George’s Home in Grafton village. Each resident received a ‘goodie’ bag comprising toiletries and over-the-counter medications.

I want recognize our Young Adults who continue to do an excellent job of reflecting the vision and goals of Krio Descendants Union.

The Chapter’s website www.kdunortheast.org has been created. Although this is still ‘work in progress’,

we are convinced and encouraged that it will aid us in sharing information with members and supporters..

We can proudly say that even though 2020 was challenging and unprecedented, we managed to find ways to fulfill the commitments of the Chapter. I am pleased to inform you that membership increased by 5% and I would be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank each and every one of our members especially the Executives for their role in making 2020 a successful year despite the COVID pandemic.

We embrace the New Year with renewed vigor and stronger dedication to make it an even better year. I am immensely grateful to all our patrons, friends and supporters without whose help both financially and morally we would not be able to accomplish our goals.

I pray 2021 is progressing well for you and your family.

I am immensely grateful to all our patrons, friends and supporters without whose help, both financially and morally, we would not be able to accomplish our goals. I hope you are encouraged and ready to roll up your sleeves this year so that we can do even more for 'wi krio broda Æn sista dem'.

Hope you enjoy reading this Chapter's Fourth Edition Newsletter.

Roland Roberts
President

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Nominating Committee, June 2020 – May 2022

Ayodele House

In adherence with Article VI of the KDU-NE By-laws to elect a new executive committee after the two years, a Nominating Committee was established in April 2020 to conduct the election.

Members of the Nominating Committee will remain in office for the two-year term after the elections for which they were selected - in this case 1 June 2020 through May 31, 2022. The purpose of the term of service is to maintain the democratic election process.

1. If anyone is elected, and it is discovered after the election that the person is not eligible, the election of that officer is null and void. The committee then has to find a

new nominee, and the members have to vote again.

2. If a vacancy is created early in the term of office, the vacancy is filled by election instead of by appointment.
3. If elected, the person may decline to serve, and members will have to hold another election.
4. If anyone is elected, and it is discovered after the election that the person is not eligible, the election of that officer is null and void. The committee then has to find a new nominee, and the members have to vote again.

The Nominating Committee recommended to the Executive Members that, given the ease of the process, future elections be conducted using an online platform.

The May 2020 election for Executive Officers of the KDU Northeast Chapter was an uncontested election. Officers for the term 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2022 are:

President – Roland Roberts
Vice President – Alhaji Brima Rahman
Secretary – Ayodele House
Asst. Secretary – Sana Smith
Social Secretary – Edith Pratt-Davies
Asst. Social Secretary – Dorothea Allen
Treasurer – Iris Max-MacCarthy
Asst. Treasurer – Agatha Pratt
Auditor – Percy Crowther
Archivists – Melbourne Garber
Christo Davies
Asst. Archivist – Gloria Allen
KDU Young Adult - Nkechi Fyle

MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

Gloria Allen
Rosaline Fyle
Agatha Pratt
Donna Sayers
Ayodele House (Chair)

KDU-NE VIRTUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Edith Pratt-Davies

On October 11, 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic KDU Northeast held it's eleventh annual Thanksgiving Service virtually. The theme for the

Service was 'Reclaim the Connection' in keeping with the Organization's motto, "*le wi ep wiset*". The traditional process was followed that ensured a truly interfaith service that involved both our Christian and Muslim brothers and sisters. The Christian Service was led by Rev. Shika Ademu-John. The Muslim prayers were conducted by Imam Alpha A. K Tejan. The KDU Northeast choir enriched the Service with a selection of music.

KDU Northeast expresses sincere appreciation and thanks to our numerous patrons, supporters and friends for their generous financial support. Funds raised were used to support ongoing projects in Sierra Leone.

KDU-NE YOUNG ADULTS' CORNER

Nkechi Fyle

In February, the Young Adults held a successful annual Valentine's Day Gift basket sales. The event raised a total of \$2,000 which was used to help fulfill their planned giving activities. The theme for the event was "Love way so sweet"

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Young Adult Weekend Extravaganza which was planned for Memorial Day Weekend 2020 had to be cancelled.

On June 6, 2020 KDUYA held its first Open Discussion night via Zoom. Discussions focused on issues following the death of George Floyd that included police brutality against blacks and social justice. Also discussed were the protests that were taking place and the effects they were having on those who are the first generation of Sierra Leoneans in the country.

On July 12, 2020 a Trivia Night via Zoom was held. It was led by Natasha Bardowell and Daryl Von Herbert. The event was well-attended and participants enjoyed answering trivia questions about Sierra Leone's history and culture.

On August 20, 2020 a second Open Discussion Night took place via Zoom. The topic of discussion was the importance of wearing masks during the pandemic.

Items donated by KDU Northeast Young Adults in 2020 were handed over on Monday, February 1. Items included 150 Health Kits destined for The Asmaa James Foundation in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Items in the kits included nail clippers, hand sanitizer, toothbrush, toothpaste, and deodorant. The Health Kits were distributed by Mr. & Mrs. Ogoo members of KDU Northeast. We are thankful to the Ogoo family

and all those who worked behind the scenes to assist with completing the project successfully.



SUPPORTED PROJECTS

On the 11th of January, 2021, representatives of the Organization presented the library with books, computers, educational toys, white board and accessories, speak out learning pads, Pictionary, play rugs, bean bags, musical and teaching equipment, Braille books, activity booklets and alphabet set for learning Braille.

During the presentation, Mr. Willie Shaw, a retired school teacher and an erstwhile member of the library expressed his joy at being part of the organization that is providing modern day learning tools and techniques for the children. He stressed that the donations would encourage the children at an early age to grow and prepare themselves for their future.

The musical instruments, he said, would help relax and improve their talents during their leisure time. The Chairman of The Library Board, Professor Gbamanja was also present and thanked the Organization for their support and expressed his pleasure for the passion with which KDU-NE has embraced the Sierra Leone Library Board. He went on to say that the donations were not only benefiting the central library but also the country.

The Head of the Children's Library, Mrs. Dunstanette Davies also thanked the organization for the donations, particularly the new large white board which plays a very integral part in visual teaching of the children. She prayed for God's continued blessings and guidance for members of the Organization in their various endeavors. Other members of staff also expressed their thanks and appreciation in the form of poetry and songs. The major highlight was a poem of appreciation, written and read by Keziah Sesay whose mother works at the library. She said she was born and raised within the walls of the library and started reading books sent by KDU-NE since the age of two. She is now attending The Annie Walsh Memorial School and attributed her success to the access of books and the study area at the Library. Keziah also thanked KDU-NE for their support as many children of her age group have benefited from the books and equipment donated.



In his closing remarks, the Chief Librarian, Mr. Salieu Sesay, thanked the Organization for its continued support. He reiterated that KDU-NE had adopted the Children's Library and that he has been working closely with the Organization. The support provided has helped to enhance the education of the children served. He noted that an important aspect of KDU-NE was the ongoing consultation with the Organization and meeting the needs expressed. The delivery of the items donated is always timely with some surprises of additional and useful items.



KING GEORGE'S HOME

Christo Davies

The King George VI Memorial home for the elderly destitute and desolate has been in existence since after the end of World War II when the British handed it over to the Government of Sierra Leone. It is located in Grafton on the West End of Freetown.

This is the second year that the Home is receiving donations from the Chapter.

On the 8th of January 2021, KDU NE made their annual donations to the Home. Items donated included crutches, walkers, various essential toiletries, hand sanitizers and a collection of over the counter medications. An anonymous donor donated cash that was used to provide a sumptuous two course meal for all the residents and staff at the home. KDU-NE members and the media personnel present joined in partaking of the meal.

Over 50 residents and staff members were presented with individual gift bags. KDU-NE representative, Mr. Christo Davies noted that 2020 had been a very difficult year globally but in keeping with the Organization's commitments and promise, it had adhered to its plan to support the Home. He also asked the members and staff of the Home to join KDU-NE in thanking all their patrons and well wishers who helped make donations possible. During the presentation of the gifts, Mr. Willie Shaw expressed his joy in being part of KDU-NE and thanked God for making it possible to embark on

such venture. He called on other Organizations at home and in the diaspora to continue helping the aged and the less fortunate. In keeping with the Organization's motto; 'leh wi ep wisef', he emphasized that we must love and embrace each other and promote the good name of our country Sierra Leone.

In her Vote of Thanks, Ms. Brendaford Farmer the director of the Home expressed her sincere gratitude to the organization on behalf of the residents and staff. She also asked for continued support and highlighted the immediate challenges that included the lack of proper security for the home.

At the end of the presentation a tour of the home was undertaken. It was noticed that some of the roofs in the dormitories were leaking. Mr. Christo Davies explained to the staff members that the security wall was being addressed by the Global Body. He, however, assured them that KDU-NE will provide some assistance for the repairs of the roofs. He urged them to get estimates for the repairs and send them to the Organization.

The residents thanked the KDU-NE with a rendition of their Theme Song: "Welcome to the King George Old People's home."



2020 KDU Global Virtual Thanksgiving Service

Alhaji Brima Rahman

The year 2020 was a challenging year for all. We experienced the brute force of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) with untold infections and unprecedented deaths. Because of this, most indoor and outdoor activities that require gathering were halted. As a result, almost all religious institutions were barred from observing service in their houses of worship. Normally this is where our thanksgiving services, both Christian and Muslim are usually held. However, as we know the Almighty God always make provision for his servants. Through Zoom, participants were able to communicate and see each other and loved ones virtually with live pictures on their devices.

KDU Global took advantage of this technology and on Sunday September 6, 2020 launched the most watched Virtual Thanksgiving service in history via Zoom. This highly successful event was watched by an audience of about 450 people spanning almost all the continents of the globe. The event lasted for almost 4 hours. For the first time also, the entire program was conducted in Krio. This action resonated with our culture and our people in Sierra Leone and was well received. Members of KDU Northeast Chapter played crucial roles toward its success. Some members of KDU Northeast Chapter played crucial roles toward its success. The President, Mr. Roland Roberts and the Vice President Alhaji Brima Rahman were given the honor of giving



the opening remarks of the ceremony. Miss Nkechi Fyle, our KDU Global Young Adult chair, also did a solo song that captivated and wowed the audience. It was a proud and exciting day for all Krios.

The previous evening, on 5 Sept. 2020, the KDU Young Adults led by Nkechi Fyle took to the virtual screen to entertain the audience as a warm up to the Thanksgiving. It was a night of fun, trivia events as well as notable cultural attributes from our ancestors. The event was greatly appreciated.

The program came to an end after a message to all was delivered by the KDU Global Chairlady, Dr. Princess Dougan.



Ms. Isatu Smith

Bunce Island is one of the most significant heritage sites in Sierra Leone and a unique cultural monument to Africa's intersection with the United States and the wider Atlantic World. Located about 17 miles upriver in the Sierra Leone River the island was a center of British slave trade in West Africa from about 1670 to 1808, and one of the most lucrative slave trading operations on the coast. It bears witness to this dark period in history.

Ongoing degradation caused by severe climatic conditions, unchecked vegetative growth and general neglect threatened the physical integrity of the site. There had been various efforts to preserve the ruins at the island since the 1940s but without significant funding these efforts only had limited success.

In 2017 the Monuments and Relics Commission (MRC) teamed up with the US based World Monuments Fund (WMF) to submit a proposal for funding of the preservation of Bunce Island to the U S Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. Following the award of the grant in September 2017, implementation of the project officially commenced in December 2017 with a ceremony on the island attended by the US Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Hon. Maria Brewer, and Mr. Raymond Gbetuwa, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

The preservation project at Bunce Island had three main objectives: first, to carry out physical conservation at the site based on international best practices in order to preserve it for future generations; second, to improve visitor facilities at the site to encourage visitation; and third, to carry out an education outreach program in local schools and training of craftspeople and tour guides. As a result of this project, a large section of standing ruins has been stabilized, visitor infrastructure has been created including a landing jetty (funded by the Sierra Leone Government), and a Visitor Centre, pathways, and information signs will be added soon.

Preservation at Bunce Island is an opportunity to help alter perceptions of Sierra Leone, contributing to the country's economic revival and will ensure the survival of one of the most important heritage sites in

BUNCE ISLAND GETS AN OVERDUE AND MUCH NEEDED UPGRADE

(Culled from Article by Ms. Isatu Smith, Project Manager for the Bunce Island Preservation Project and former Head of Monument and Relics Commission)

West Africa with strong cultural and historical links to the US.

Following all official protocols work finally got underway on site in January 2019 and was completed in July 2020 due to delays caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

As part of the preservation project interventions were made across the entire site, including cleaning of surfaces and re-pointing of mortar joints. But the main areas of preservation work undertaken were as follows:

1. Physical Conservation

North Bastion and Curtain Wall The first phase of preservation work at Bunce Island was focused on the curtain wall on the north side of the fortress. This section of wall is the most substantial at the fort and the area with the most severe problems. It faces the deep channel between Bunce Island and the mainland, which was the only side ships could approach from without running aground on the many mud flats that surround the island. There are two parts of the wall; the North Bastion or defensive tower adjacent to the gatehouse to the fortress: and the northern curtain wall. Preservation work on this section of the fort entailed: construction of a radial beam, connection of the radial beam to a large concrete block called an anchor or 'deadman', treatment of the soil fill between inner and outer bastion walls, and wall capping and lime render.

North bastion before preservation work and near completion:



Bance House The second phased of the conservation program at Bunce Island commenced in November 2019 after the annual rains. Bance House

is the most iconic structure at the site and at the core of the complex. Bance House was the official residence of the Chief Agent/Captain/Commander of the island and his senior ranking officers. Implementing repairs in a way that is safe, lasting and non-intrusive was the principle challenge at the Bance House and surrounding buildings.

Bance House before and after preservation:



The Gate Tower The Gate Tower was the main entrance to the fort. From here, a pathway leads down to the remains of the original jetty from whence captives were transferred to ships moored offshore, facing death during the Middle Passage or a life of slavery in the Americas. The structure was in very bad condition at the outset of the project. Large fractures indicated that the walls were rotating, sections of masonry had collapsed, and a large tree grew out of one major wall, making it top-heavy and unstable.

The Gate Tower before and after preservation:



The Merchant's Dormitory The Merchants' Dormitory may be one of the oldest buildings in the complex. The structure bears evidence of modifications reflecting multiple episodes of reconstruction or renovation. The top floor was used as living quarters for lower ranking white officials and its ground floor to store trade goods.

Interior of the Merchant's Dormitory before and after preservation:



Interior of the Merchant's Dormitory before and after preservation

The Office Tower Work has also taken place at the Office Tower, which lies adjacent to the South Bastion of the Curtain Wall. This area of structure was in very bad condition.

The Office Tower after preservation:



2. Site Interpretation

An important objective of the project was to improve the experience of visitors to the island to make it as rewarding as possible, without eroding the site's authenticity.

Jetty One of the biggest obstacles for visitors to the island was the difficulty of getting from boat to shore at low tide when boats must moor far off the beach. Visitors had to either wade through the mud or accept a lift on the shoulders of one to the stronger boatmen.

In 2016 the Government of Sierra Leone allocated funds for construction of a new jetty.

Jetty at Bunce Island:



Visitor Route/Pathways A visitor route around the island was designed with paths and steps constructed. This creates a more friendly atmosphere and makes it easier to navigate the route around the fort.



Toilets One of the main concerns expressed by visitors to the site was the absence of toilets. A new toilet has been constructed behind the existing Caretaker's House, on ground that had already been disturbed and therefore did not contain any archaeological resources. No water is available on the island and the toilets are dry.

Visitor's Center Conversion of the existing Caretaker's House to house the Visitor's Centre was also completed.

The visitor's center and toilet:



3. Education Outreach Program

An outreach and education program was implemented by the Monuments and Relics Commission for schools in Freetown. Heritage Clubs benefitted from this program with a total of 133 students visiting the island.

Pupils of the St. Joseph's Secondary School Freetown Heritage Club:



4. Training for craftspeople

Training in repair and maintenance for local craftspeople was done during the project. This was based on the premise that the best practical training is done on site, through hands-on participation in the physical process of conservation – training through doing.

A total of 51 skilled craftspeople and laborers were employed during the project, of whom 8 were women. Workers were drawn from islands surrounding Bunce Island such as: Sangbulima/Tasso (35%) and Pepel (65%). Employing people from neighboring communities meant that benefits from the project are shared in different communities. Each of these communities have strong historical and cultural links to Bunce Island, and by employing people from these communities, the project ensured that none has a disproportionate share of any benefits.

5. Training of Tour Guides

Training of tour guides for Bunce Island was also done as part of the training component of the project. The Guides were instructed on the various stages of taking visitors through the ruins in a manner that tells a compelling story as well as educate the visitor. This was climaxed by the trip to the island when the Guides were taken on a tour and encouraged to use similar methods themselves.

6. University Field Studio for Columbia University NY and Fourah Bay College Freetown

In October 2019, World Monument Fund facilitated a Field Studio in Freetown for students and faculty from Columbia University, NYC, and Fourah Bay College

(FBC). WMF has a long-standing relationship with the Heritage Preservation course at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) at Columbia. Apart from the benefit local partners gain from the collaboration, engaging a US institution in AFCP activities broadens the impact of the grant to include a US constituency. Not only does this give the program an added dimension of relevance, it also presents a highly professional and expert outward face of an exemplary American institution to an international audience. As part of the Field Studio program, the students took part in a site visit to Bunce Island. Remarkably, none of the students and only one faculty member from Fourah Bay College had ever visited Bunce, and half of the FBC students had never even heard of the site!

Students from Fourah Bay College in Freetown and Columbia University visit Old Fourah Bay College



Expert Technical Team

The expert technical team for the project consisted of Tony Steel, a master stonemason and expert conservator responsible for leading conservation work on site; Melbourne Garber, a structural engineer with a long association with Bunce Island (he was born in Sierra Leone but is now based in New York); and Dr. Chris de Corse, a professor of anthropology at Syracuse University New York and an expert on the history and archaeology of Bunce Island, and Bossman Murrey the rescue archaeologist. The expert team also included Professor Abdul Babatunde Karim, a botanist and former Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science at the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone whose role was to advise on control of vegetation; Madam Isatu Smith, initially the Chair of MRC and later WMF's Local Project Manager, who is a heritage professional with a detailed knowledge of the history of Bunce Island; and Desmond Jones, who was Site Engineer. Project management was led by Stephen Battle, who is WMF's Program Director.

Staff of the Monuments and Relics Commission implemented the School Heritage Club Tours and the Chairman Charlie Haffner provided guidance.

SOURCE: VSL TRAVEL

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CONSTANCE CUMMINGS-JOHN

Amma Fosuah Poku

Author is the wife of Pan-African activist and journalist, the late Olu Awoonor-Gordon from Sierra Leone.

Constance Cummings-John was born into an elite Krio family in Freetown, Sierra Leone. She moved to London, United Kingdom in 1935 to train as a teacher. Whilst there she had her first experience of direct racism and as a result began to develop African nationalist sentiments, joining the League of Coloured Peoples (LCP) founded by Dr Harold Moody; she was appointed to the executive committee of the LCP.

In 1936 Constance Cummings-John travelled to the United States for further studies. Whilst there, her experience of racism worsened. This led to an increasing recognition of the need for African unity. On her return to London Constance Cummings-John joined the International African Students Bureau (IASB) founded by I.T.A. Wallace-Johnson, a fellow Sierra Leonean, George Padmore, C. L. R. James and T. Ras Makonnen

On her return to Sierra Leone in 1937 Constance Cummings-John became principal of the African Methodist Episcopal Girls' Industrial School. She also helped to found a branch of the LCP. However, concerned by its elite Krio focus, she joined forces with Wallace-Johnson to form the mass based Sierra Leone branch of the West African Youth League (WAYL). The WAYL immediately set about organising branches amongst the people of the "protectorate," the first political organisation to do so. At the time Sierra Leone was divided into a colony, primarily the Krio (descendants of freed slaves), and a protectorate. Colonial rule thrived on this separation, imposing different treatment between the people of the protectorate and colony.

The WAYL sponsored Constance Cummings-John and three other candidates to stand in Freetown council elections in November 1938. All were elected and Constance Cummings-John made history by becoming the first woman elected to public office in British West Africa, she had not yet turned 21.

In 1951 Constance Cummings-John co-founded the Sierra Leone Women's Movement (SLWM) with Mabel Dove and Lottie Hazeley. Recognising the importance of reaching out to ordinary women, the inaugural meeting of the SLWM was held outside in the market, right where women worked. A rule of the SLWM was that all women should wear head ties during public demonstrations to show solidarity with the ordinary women of Sierra Leone.

Constance Cummings-John's involvement in national politics in the led up to independence was controversial. The Krios had formed the National Council of Sierra Leone (NCSL) and were opposed to unity between the colony and protectorate.

Constance Cummings-John on the other hand felt that a united Sierra Leone was a necessity and along with a few other younger Krios joined the party of the protectorate, the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), despite her husband being on the NCSL executive committee. A women's section of the SLPP was announced on 25th August 1955 with Cummings-John elected national Chair. As a young woman and wife many also felt she was too vocal and active in political matters.

In 1957 general elections were held in Sierra Leone and Constance Cummings-John was elected to the House of Representatives, a victory that enraged many of the Krio elite. So much so, that some orchestrated to have her charged with electoral malpractice. Although innocent, she was sentenced to six months imprisonment which was later overturned on appeal. Because of pressure from her family and the stress of defending her case Constance Cummings-John resigned her position and left national politics. On 7th January 1966, her birthday, she was elected Mayor of Freetown, becoming the first African woman to govern a major capital city on the continent. She passed away in London, UK on 21st February 2000.

For those of you who would like to find out more about Constance Cummings-John you may wish to read her autobiography "Memoirs of a Krio Leader" edited by LaRay Denzer.

Sierra Leonean-born Frederica Williams gets Michael Shinagel award

Written by Rebecca Bakken, Harvard Extension School Blog

Source: The Patriotic Vanguard
This article has been edited for length

It is not every day or every month or year that you hear that an immigrant from Africa or tiny Sierra Leone is made a CEO in a leading American institution or that they have received one of America's most distinguished awards, the Dean Michael Shinagel Award.

That is exactly what happened to quiet and unassuming Frederica Williams, CEO of Boston's Whittier Street Health Center this month.

Health Center CEO Presented with 2020 Dean Michael Shinagel Award



When Frederica Williams, CSS '91, was in England earning her undergraduate degree in finance, she thought she'd eventually work at the London Stock Exchange. Later, after moving to Boston in 1984, she envisioned a long career in banking or corporate finance.

More than three decades later, the Sierra Leone native is president and CEO of an organization that caters not to men in suits, but to greater Boston's most vulnerable communities. And in her 18 years at the helm of the Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury, Williams' impact has been monumental. Frederica Williams

Her work at Whittier has earned her the 2020 Dean Michael Shinagel Award for Service to Others, presented by the Harvard Extension Alumni Association. Williams says she isn't in it for the awards but is honored to receive one named for Dean Shinagel, a fellow immigrant.

"The HEAA played such a critical foundational role in my life, in as far as my experiences in Boston," Williams said. "But to receive an award named after [Shinagel], who has a life of dedication to others, and to be able to share my life experiences, it means a lot."

Growing up in Sierra Leone with a businessman father and entrepreneur mother, Williams got a firsthand view of what it looks like to work toward both business success and humanitarianism—not as opposing forces, but complementary to one another. She completed her undergraduate degree and moved to Boston, working in banking while raising a young

family. Williams initially got into healthcare via a recruiter and worked for a pharmaceutical company and a hospital.

Four years into her time in Boston, Williams met a former schoolmate of her father who introduced her to Harvard Extension School.

"I said to him, it's wonderful that I have this degree from England, but I need to find a way to integrate into the American educational system," Williams said. "And he said to me the Harvard Extension School is a perfect place for you to start."

At Harvard Extension, Williams met people who were also looking to upskill while maintaining careers and families. She also had the opportunity to study business writing, accounting, and financial management—skills that would serve her well later on.

"Little did I know that I would be following in the path of Michael Shinagel," Williams said.

After completing her graduate certificate at Harvard Extension, Williams went on to earn an MBA from Anna Maria College, a Catholic institution in Massachusetts.

Her faith, work ethic, and her mission—helping "the least, the lost, and the last"—would eventually lead Williams to Whittier Street Health Services. Whittier was in financial crisis when Williams joined. As a self-proclaimed risk-taker, she welcomed the chance to make a substantial impact on an area of the city historically neglected by public services due to its racial demographics.

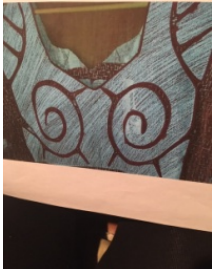
Williams worked with the city board and mayor to build social services, including a prison release program, mental health care, and youth development. Now, Whittier has seen growth and improvement in all aspects.

In 2018, the board at Whittier named its six-story, state-of-the-art facility with city views the Frederica M. Williams Building. Even with her legacy cemented and immortalized, Williams still sees work yet to be done.

With the pandemic disproportionately affecting unhoused and underserved individuals, Whittier has implemented satellite and mobile clinics to expand its reach and help people where they are. "We're going to the places where the homeless congregate. We're going to public housing. We're going to places designated as hot spots by the city, and meeting people where they are, providing testing, linking them to care, keeping them healthy."

ANSWERS TO PRINT MATERIALS

Gloria Allen



No. 3 - Kɔktel



No. 4 – Lif

CAN YOU NAME THESE PRINT DESIGNS?

No. 5



No. 6



PARABLES

Iris Max-Macarthy

big man nɔ go de na tɔŋ, kaw day na rop

Translate: An adult will not be in town, the cow is being roped.

Meaning: A respectable visitor will not be paying a visit and you keeping from serving a sumptuous meal.

If os nɔ sɛl yu, trit nɔ go bay yu

Translate: If your house does not sell you out, the street will not buy you.

Meaning: If your family members do not discuss your affairs out of the house, no one will know your issues. (In other words, wash your dirty linens at home).

int no in masta, kabaslt no in misis

Translate: The trousers knows his Master and the dress knows the mistress who owns her.

Meaning: You offended me and I am getting back to you without calling your name. You know it's you, cause you are guilty

Estin drink, Watalo drɔnk

Translate: Hastings drink, Waterloo Drunk

Meaning: Monkey Work, Baboon Eat. I do all the work, you reap all the benefit.

enjɛl nɔ ba fityay Krays

Translate: Angels in heaven does not disrespect Jesus Christ

Meaning: Younger ones must have respect for older ones.

big man nɔ go de na tɔŋ, kaw day na rop

SAVE THE DATE

KDU Northeast Thanksgiving Service - October 10

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WARMLY WELCOME AND PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

Editorial Committee:

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