



KRIO DESCENDANTS UNION NORTHEAST (KDU-NE)

“le wi ep wisef”

Newsletter

Edition 5

January-December 2021

2021!

COVID CONTINUED TO PRESENT US WITH CHALLENGES!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1.....President’s Message
Page 1A Word from the Chair/Editor
Page 2.....KDU-NE Fundraising Luncheon Sale
Page 2....KDU-NE Virtual Interfaith Thanksgiving
Page 2.....KDU-NE Young Adults Corner
Page 2 KDU-NE 2021 Supported Projects
Page 2..... Global Health Outreach
Page 2.....Some historical facts
Page 3.....Some Famous Sierra Leoneans
Past & Present
Page 5Sierra Leoneans in the US
Page 5.....We Remember
Page 5..... Save The Date

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends,
I hope you will find this fifth edition of our Chapter’s Newsletter informative, interesting and educational.

As it happened in 2020, COVID-19 continued to present challenges for us. The Chapter was,

annual (virtual) Interfaith thanksgiving service. We thank you and hope that you will continue to provide us with your much needed financial and material support.

Roland Roberts
President

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR/EDITOR

Dear Members,

These Newsletters are produced for you, your family, and supporters. We welcome your input, comments, and contributions. We learn a bit from each other, and it is always welcoming to hear news that not everyone is privy to, and which may be of interest to some readers. Please share with us some good news about yourself, your family, and friends so that we can all celebrate and rejoice with you!

Thank you very much for your time and interest.

Agatha Pratt
Chair, Editorial Committee

KDU-NE FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON SALE - SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

The Chapter hosted a drive-thru luncheon sale on Saturday, September 25 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. A variety of Krio food was prepared by members. Pre-ordered food was packaged and ready for pick up as well as for delivery to homes by volunteers. As the COVID pandemic continues, we had to adhere to regulations that

restrict indoor activities and organized the luncheon sale to respond to the situation, ensuring the full participation of members and supporters. The Social Committee, which organized the fundraiser, provided some limited space at the venue for the food pick up service as well as for socializing. During the event we ran a membership drive that resulted in the Chapter adding four (4) new members. Cash donations made by members and supporters also provided a modest increase to the total funds raised. The event was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work and commitment of the Social Committee team with the full support of the President and the Executive Committee.

KDU-NE VIRTUAL INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE - OCTOBER 10, 2021

The Chapter's annual Thanksgiving, its second Interfaith Virtual Thanksgiving Service, was held on Sunday, October 10, 2021, to give thanks to God for His mercy, grace, and blessings. This service marked KDU Northeast's twelfth Thanksgiving Service since its inception. Approximately 140 people participated in a well-organized/coordinated Service whose theme was "A Journey of Hope". The Chapter received support from members of other Global chapters as well as the Global Chair, Dr. Princess Dougan, who said a few words to the attendees. Offerings/donations were received during and immediately following the Service, and continue to pour in. The monies collected will help fund the Chapter's philanthropic projects in Sierra Leone.

Appreciation and thanks to the Social Committee members, the Executive Committee, our steadfast and willing technology expert Mr. Adesina During, and our young adult moderator for the hard work and commitment devoted to organizing the Service to ensure success. Feedback pouring in thereafter continues to be very positive and encouraging.

KDU-NE YOUNG ADULTS' CORNER

Unfortunately, activities planned by the Young Adult Group were not realized because of the COVID pandemic.

KDU-NE 2021 SUPPORTED PROJECTS

The Chapter did not fund any projects during the year. It did, however, receive positive reports on assistance provided in 2020 to the King George's Home and the Children's Library.

GLOBAL HEALTH OUTREACH

In 2021 this recurring project, to which all chapters financially subscribe, was held at Wesley church on the West End of Freetown and New Life Church on the East End of Freetown. The two-day event serviced more than 200 patients at both locations. Medical services provided included blood pressure and blood sugar level checks, eye exams, nutrition and hygiene education. The health teams made referrals for follow up for necessary treatments.

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS

SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL RAILWAY

Contributed by Iris Max-MacCarthy

Source: Culled

Before Sierra Leone's national railway was finally shut down in 1975, it used to pass through 49 train stations — all connected by an overall total of 600-kilometers distance of rail-tracks divided along three lines.

1. The first line which connected the Water Street Train Station in Freetown to the Bauya Train Station passed through 14 other stations at Dove Court, Cline Town, Fisher Lane, Kissi, Wellington, Allen Town, Hastings, Rokel, Waterloo, Newton, Songo, Mabang, Bradford and Rotifunk.

2. The second line which connected Bauya to Makeni passed through 13 stations, that included

Malachi, Nwala, Mabinti, Matsuri, Makasi, Mate, Mafuma, off-Yonibana, Masuba, Magbolo, Masang, Magbass, and Magburaka.

3. The third line which connected Bauya to Pendembu passed through 19 other stations at Yoyema, Moyamba, Levuma, Kangahun, Mogbaseke, Mano, Tabe, Kondiama, Bo, Gerihun, Yamandu, Baoma, Blama, Kenema, Hangha, Komende, Segbwema, Daru, and Baima.

All 49 stations were served by two types of train: (i) the Goods Train (sub divided into the Locomotive and Steam cargo trains) which transported large and heavy consignments of economic commodities such as cocoa, coffee, oil palm, "Banga", Piassava, among others; and

(ii) the Passenger Train (sub divided into the Express and Normal passenger trains) which transported people in large amounts.

In terms of impact, the Sierra Leone Railway Company alone employed a minimum of 10,000 Sierra Leoneans at any given time from 1961-1971.

Moreover, the 49 train stations served by the Sierra Leone railway performed the role of growth poles that spurred the creation of employment for an estimated 1.5 million rural dwellers out of the country's estimated 2.5 to 3.0 million people during the first decade of independence.

Within that period, agriculture accounted for over 80% of rural employment; and it contributed to 70% GDP.

SOME FAMOUS SIERRA LEONEANS - PAST & PRESENT

Yvonne Aki Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown



The Krios were proud to have one of their own, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). In 2021, Time Magazine named her one of its "100 Next" honorees. Also in 2021, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr was honored by the Penn Institute for Urban Research at the University of Pennsylvania, USA, for her work, "[Transform Freetown](#)", in guiding Freetown towards a more sustainable and vibrant future during the 16th annual Urban Leadership Forum entitled "Mayoral Leadership in Challenging Times." Through her leadership, Freetown was chosen as one of five cities to be granted the Global Cities Fund, which will provide financial and technical support for a year to youths to set up waste collection businesses. Also, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr was able to secure a Bloomberg Philanthropies grant (one of 15 winners out of 40 selected participants in the Bloomberg-Harvard City Leadership Initiative). The 15 winners are recognized for designing the boldest and most ambitious urban innovations to emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic. The winning ideas address one or more of four current issue areas in cities including economic recovery and inclusive growth; health and wellbeing; climate and environment; and gender and equality. Each city was awarded one million dollars in addition to technical support and coaching over three years to bring their ideas to life. Kudos to our Mayor.

Clifford Nelson Fyle, Lyricist

Professor Clifford Nelson Fyle was a Sierra Leonean linguistics professor, author, writer, mathematician, lecturer, and publisher who authored the Sierra Leone National Anthem. He was the first Sierra Leonean to produce school textbooks for the teaching of Sierra Leonean languages. He is today widely known as the author of the Sierra Leone national anthem.

I. T. A. Wallace-Johnson, Politician

Isaac Theophilus Akunna Wallace-Johnson was a Sierra Leonean and British West African workers' leader, journalist, activist, and politician. Born into a poor Creole family in Sierra Leone, he emerged as a natural leader in school. After at-

tending United Methodist Collegiate School for two years, he dropped out and took a job as an officer in the customs department in 1913. He was dismissed for helping to organize a labor strike but was reinstated to his position a year later. After resigning from his job, he enlisted as a clerk with the Carrier Corps during World War I. After being demobilized in 1920, Wallace-Johnson moved from job to job, before settling as a clerk in the Freetown municipal government. He claimed to have exposed a corruption scandal, which resulted in the incarceration of top officials, including the mayor. After being fired from this job in 1926, he left Sierra Leone and became a sailor. He joined a national seamen's union and is believed to have also joined the Communist Party. In 1930, he helped form the first trade union in Nigeria and attended the International Trade Union Conference of Negro Workers in Hamburg, where he established several contacts. He published articles and edited the *Negro Worker*, a journal devoted to uniting black workers around the world. He traveled to Moscow, where he allegedly attended classes on Marxism-Leninism theory, union organization and political agitation.

Thomas Leighton Decker, Author

Thomas Alexander Leighton Decker or Tommy Decker, OBE, was a Sierra Leonean linguist, poet, and journalist. He is best known for his work on the Krio language and for translating Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" into the Krio language. Decker argued forcefully that the Krio language was not merely a patois but a legitimate language and as such, his contributions and revisions to the Krio language greatly influenced and added to the revival and appreciation of the language.

Abioseh Nicol, Diplomat

Davidson Sylvester Hector Willoughby Nicol or Abioseh Nicol was a Sierra Leonean academic, diplomat, physician, writer, and poet. He is known for his research into insulin and has been considered as one of Sierra Leone's most educated citizens of recent times, as he was able to secure degrees in the arts, science, and commercial dis-

ciplines. He was Ambassador to the United Nations, served as the executive director of UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and then president of the World Federation of UN Associations.

Africanus Horton, Physician

Africanus Horton, also known as James Beale, was a Creole African nationalist writer and an esteemed Medical Surgeon in the British Army from Freetown, Sierra Leone. Africanus Horton was a surgeon, scientist, soldier, banker, mining entrepreneur, and a political thinker who worked toward African independence a century before it occurred. Born as James Beale Horton, the son of an Igbo recaptive slave, he was educated at the CMS Grammar School and at the Fourah Bay Institution. In 1853, he received a War Office scholarship to study medicine in Great Britain. He studied at King's College London and Edinburgh University, qualifying as a medical doctor in 1859. While a student, he took the name "Africanus" as an emblem of pride in his African homeland. Horton wrote several books and essays, the most widely remembered of which is his 1868 [Vindication of the African Race](#), an answer to the white racist authors emerging in Europe. His writings anticipated African self-government, and many events of the 1950s and 1960s. Horton is often seen as one of the founders of African nationalism.

John Karefa-Smart, Politician

Dr. John Albert Musselman Karefa-Smart was a Sierra Leonean politician, medical doctor, University professor, and an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church. Karefa-Smart was one of the founding fathers of the Sierra Leone People's Party in 1951 and was a Member of Parliament representing Tonkolili District from 1957 to 1964. He served as the first Foreign Minister under Sierra Leone's first Prime Minister Sir Milton Margai. After the death of Sir Milton in 1964, Karefa-Smart challenged Sir Albert Margai for the SLPP leadership position, but he was unsuccessful. Karefa-Smart left the SLPP party, and Sierra Leone politics to move abroad. In 1996, Karefa-Smart returned to Sierra Leone's politics as the

founder of a newly formed United National People's Party (UNPP) and stood as the UNPP candidate in the 1996 Presidential Elections. He was defeated in the second round election runoff by the SLPP candidate, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Source: countrylicious World Countries Facts

SIERRA LEONEANS IN THE US

Filomina Clarice Steady, Professor Emerita, Wellesley College



B.A., Smith College; M.A., Boston University; B.Litt., D.Phil., Oxford University

Source: Culled

Dr. Filomina Steady, a former director at the United Nations, is Professor Emerita at Wellesley College, a women's college in Massachusetts. She has written several books, monographs, anthologies. She serves on a number of executive boards and advisory committees such as the Association of the World Wide Study of the African Diaspora and is a consultant to various organizations including the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies.

Chidi Blyden, Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense



Source: Memunatu Magazine

Chidi Blyden-Rowe was appointed by the Biden Administration in 2021 as Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs in the US Department of Defense. She previously served in the Obama Administration from 2013-2017 as the Special Assistant and Regional Director to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense for African Affairs in the Office of Secretary for Defense for Policy. Mrs. Blyden-Rowe is an alumna of Texas A&M University (BS-Sociology), the George Mason University (MS-Conflict Analysis and Resolution) and the Annie Walsh Secondary School for Girls (Freetown, Sierra Leone)

IN REMEMBRANCE

We remember with fondness and love our KDU family and friends who have passed on over during 2021 and we pray eternal peace for them.

Mrs. Amanda M. Scott Campbell – KDU-NE
Dr. Cyril Efoe Attigobe – KDU-NC
Mrs. Josephine Elliott – KDU-NE
Susan 'Sueola' Barber-Richards – KDU-MD
Prof. Cecil Magbailly Fyle KDU-NE
Mrs. Melrose Coker – KDU-NE
Mrs. Edna Kezia Scott – KDU-NE
Mr. Rodney Coker – KDU-NE
Mr. Archimedes Faulkner – KDU-TX

SAVE THE DATE

A Retreat will take place in February 2022 to plan activities for 2022. Stay tuned for more information and be ready to include them in your calendars.

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WARMLY WELCOME. SEND TO AGATHA PRATT acpratt2003@yahoo.com WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

Website: kdunortheast.org

Email: info@kdunortheast.org

KDU NE is a 501© (3) organization. All donations to the Organization are tax- deductible.