

# Hairouna Times

A quarterly newsletter from the St. Vincent & the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C.

Fall 2006 Volume 1, Issue 9

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Getting to Know . . . .
- 2 President's Corner
- 3 Atlantic City  
SVGNA Cruises the Potomac
- 4 Caribbean-Amer. month  
Light the Night
- 5 Independence Dinner/Dance
- 6 Girls High School  
New Members  
Calendar of Events 2006
- 7 Shortmus Productions  
Autumn Tea Party
- 8 Sweet Potato Delight

## The Executive Board

President

Jasmine Andrews

Vice President

Lennox Simon

General Secretary

Dayleen DeRiggs

Treasurer

Brenda Simms

Public Relations Officer

Wesley Jackson

Recording Secretary

Louise Simms

At-Large Members

Albie Crick

Omegah Fair

Ex-Officio

A. Bert Davy

**The St. Vincent & the Grenadines  
Nationals Association of  
Washington, D.C.**

P.O. Box 2250  
Washington, DC 20013

www.SVGNAadc.com  
SVGNAadc@aol.com



## Getting to Know . . . . Dennis Mounsey

Dennis Mounsey is a long-time member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C. He can recall the days of the Association's founding in the late 1980s, when area Vincentians were encouraged to seek out one another and spread the word about the new group.

Mr. Mounsey grew up in Sion Hill and later lived in the Arnos Vale area. He came to the United States in 1980 with his young family, following his tenure as chief supervisor for the Central Water and Sewerage Authority in SVG.

After settling in the D.C. metro

area, he worked for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). He has received numerous awards for his work on water- and wastewater-related issues and for advancing the training and education of professionals in the field.

Mr. Mounsey still thinks fondly of the words of Headmaster James of his high school, an individual he believed was an excellent teacher and source of guidance: "The boys of today will be the men of tomorrow" and "Better to wear out than to rust out."

In hindsight, after such a long period of service in his career, he chuckles that he's not so certain now that the second

*continued on page 3*

## The President's Corner

Jasmine "Pat" Andrews



Greetings to you all! I am pleased to let you know that I have completed my first term as president of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C. (SVGNA) and I am well into my second term. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the encouragement and support that I have received from you during my first year. It is because of your continued support that I have been able to overcome challenges and move forward in my efforts to serve and represent you in a manner demonstrative of excellence in service and growth.

As president, I continue to look for innovative activities and projects in which all Vincentians can participate by utilizing their various skills and talents to help build a stronger SVGNA and a stronger, more cohesive Vincentian community. I cannot overemphasize the importance for all Vincentians within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area to attend meetings and share with us your thoughts and ideas of how we can be most effective as an organization, especially in areas of assisting with educational and health care projects which are so needed at home. SVGNA members are committed to improving

the lives of the poor and underprivileged at home, particularly the children. I take this opportunity to invite you to join our association and help us achieve these worthy endeavors.

SVGNA has become a well-known name at home and not just a well-known name, but a name associated with dependability, integrity and compassion. We take time at our meetings to discuss the needs of our fellow Vincentians at home and collectively formulate ideas regarding the best ways that we can offer our assistance. SVGNA has been and will continue to be a formidable source on which Vincentians can rely in times of need. We continue to provide supplies to several schools, including much needed computers and computer training for teachers. We assist with feeding the homeless and sick as well as initiate projects to collect and send much needed toiletries to the Lewis Punnett Home, just to name a few projects. SVGNA remains an organization in the forefront, doing our very best with our limited resources. Many of our friends and fellow Vincentians have willingly come forward to offer us their assistance with our various projects; and they have done so with a spirit of enthusiasm, compassion and love. I take this opportunity to say thank you very much to everyone for your continued support of SVGNA.

The organization faces new

and diverse challenges as we seek to set new goals and to accomplish our vision. This is not an easy task; and it takes the collective efforts of a group of willing individuals who consistently attend meetings and offer financial support to keep the group growing and going. I would like to specially thank those committed members of SVGNA as well as those individuals who faithfully send their yearly membership dues, even though they are unable to attend monthly meetings. I appreciate your contribution and your dedication and I look forward to the time when we will be able to personally participate in our meetings together.

We are not all work and no play. Our yearly events start in the month of May, with our annual bus ride to Atlantic City and end in December with a Children's Christmas Party. There are several other functions in between including our annual picnic and boat ride. This year, our boat ride was again a smashing success! Our biggest event of the year is our annual independence celebration, which commences with a church service and ends with a dinner/dance. This year, we celebrate our church service on Sunday, October 22, 2006 at the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church – 701 Oglethorpe Street, NW – Washington, D.C. The service begins at 10:30 a.m.

***continued on page 3***

**Atlantic City**  
May 6, 2006



Every year in spring, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association charters a bus to travel to Atlantic City. The Entertainment Committee provided guests with ample breakfast in the morning and cake and beverages in the afternoon. There were other activities aside from those in the casino--several guests strolled the city, shopped at the many outlets and had lunch on the boardwalk. Pictured at the top are, from left to right, **Jasmine Andrews, Omegah Fair and Jasmine Huggins**. Below that photo are **Gibons Joseph, Kelvin George and Bert Davy**.

**SVGNA Cruises the Potomac**

The SVGNA/Grenada Cultural & Social Association (GCSA) boat cruise on the Potomac was held on July 22, 2006. After leaving the dock at midnight in one of the Spirit of Washington's new ships, music and dancing followed, with music by Bobby's Music Machine. The Association and GCSA awarded over \$900 in prize money at the annual raffle drawing held that evening. Funds from the cruise are used to support SVGNA's projects, including this year's shipments of equipment and supplies to primary schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



**continued from page 2**  
[President's Corner]

and our guest preacher is a "son of the soil" – Rev. Jonathan E. Weekes of Fort Pierce, Florida. We are looking forward to a wonderful service! Our independence dinner/dance will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2006 at the Organization of American

States (OAS) building on 17<sup>th</sup> & Constitution Avenue, NW – Washington, D.C. I encourage everyone to attend these functions and to offer your support.

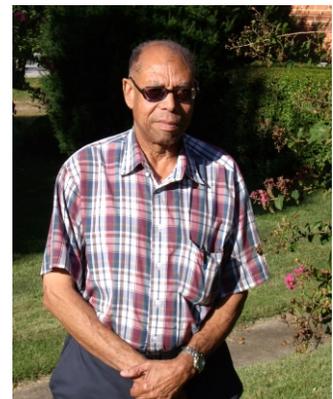
Again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of SVGNA and for your encouragement during my first term as president. I look forward to many years of great success and growth within our organization. We demonstrate the distinctive qualities befitting a great nation and a great people when we can work together to accomplish the same goals, the same vision and the same purpose.

May God richly bless us all.

**continued from page 3**  
[Mounsey interview]

bit of advice is always applicable, but he followed the respected words throughout much of his life.

Mr. Mounsey continues to teach professional courses periodically and maintains positions on industry boards. He lives in Oxon Hill, Maryland with his wife Peggy and has two sons, Sam and Dominic.



## SVGNA Supports Caribbean-American Heritage Month

June 2006 was recently declared **Caribbean-American Heritage Month**. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Calif), author of the resolution, described this effort to recognize the Caribbean community as a two-year bi-partisan endeavor.

SVGNA was one of the organizations officially recognized by the House and listed in the *Congressional Record* on July 19 as supporting the effort.

On behalf of the Association, President Jasmine Andrews sent the following letter to Representative Lee in June:

*Dear Congresswoman Lee:*

*The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C. commends you for your continued efforts to recognize the role that Caribbean people and their descendants have played in the United States.*

*Our association is pleased that H. Con. Res. 71 unanimously passed both the House and the Senate over the past year, and that President George W. Bush recently declared June National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of*

*Washington, D.C. would like to join the Caucus of CARICOM Ambassadors in Washington, D.C. and the other organizations that are supporting your bi-partisan endeavors.*

Our members are looking forward to viewing the special tribute on C-SPAN this Wednesday. Thank you again for your work on the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee and the bipartisan Caribbean Caucus.

Area Congressional representatives who co-sponsored the resolutions included Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Albert Wynn (D-MD).

Rep. Lee has also introduced legislation this summer to establish a specific U.S.-Caribbean educational exchange program in the State Department, especially on the high school and post-secondary levels. The bill is named in honor of the late Shirley Chisholm.



## Light the Night



Approaching its third year of involvement, SVGNA's Washington Area Charities Projects Committee will walk in **Light the Night 2006**. This charitable walk is sponsored by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and raises funds and awareness for cures for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

This year, Team SVGNA will be walking at Rockville Town Center on Saturday, October 21, 2006. The Walk's honorary chairman is former Redskins player **Brian Mitchell**, pictured above at the event's kickoff with Brenda Simms, the committee chair.

If you are interested in participating or making a donation, please call Brenda at (703) 491-2589. Donations are accepted even after the event.

## Meeting Reminder

SVGNA general meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We meet at Holy Comforter Church in Washington, and welcome your membership, ideas and suggestions.



# Annual Independence Dinner/Dance



Saturday, October 28, 2006

Organization of American States Building, Washington, D.C.

\$65 per person

Price includes dinner and drinks.

Join us for cocktails, dinner, awards, prizes, music and dancing!



## Girls High School Celebration Takes Shape

Over 100 alumnae of Girls High School (GHS) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines recently convened in Toronto for a lively summit. The purpose: planning for the school's celebration of its centennial in 2011.

The summit included several days of activities and coincided with the weekend of Caribana. The feature address was given by Rev. Trudy Nanton-White.

Mrs. **Cheryl King**, one of the organizers of the GHS event, told *Hairouna Times* that the reunion is designed to reunite students from all over the globe. "It was nice to see everybody" in August, she said. The groups are still in the planning stages, and she explained that they "thought we should have a head start."

May 8 is the specific date of the school's founding.

The summit attendees are pictured below.



For more information on the centennial efforts, visit <http://GHSAAhomestead.com/globalsummit.html>.

## New Members

SVGNA continues to grow and welcome new members to the organization. This year, we have been joined by: **Levi Rogers**, originally from Diamond Village, and his daughter, **Melissa**, residents of the District; **Kelvin George**, from the Mesopotamia area and now living in Glen Burnie; and **John Anderson**, a long-time supporter of the Association, returning as an active member, after his family's move back to this area.

If you would like to join the Association, please contact the Treasurer for a membership form and dues info--(703) 491-2589 or [SVGNAadc@aol.com](mailto:SVGNAadc@aol.com). Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month; you need not attend to become a member.

## Website is Tool to Keep You in the Know

Be sure to visit SVGNA's website periodically. We have information on upcoming/past events and meetings, the Association's leadership and contact numbers. [www.SVGNAadc.com](http://www.SVGNAadc.com)

*If you have interesting or informative articles about your fellow Vincentians or St. Vincent and the Grenadines, please contact the Hairouna Times editor at [EMarecheau@yahoo.com](mailto:EMarecheau@yahoo.com).*

## Calendar of Events 2006



Sunday, October 22 10:30 am  
**Independence Church Service**  
Holy Comforter Church  
Washington, D.C.

Saturday, October 28 7:00 pm  
**Independence Dinner/Dance**  
Organization of Amer. States  
Washington, D.C.

Saturday, November 11 7:00  
**SVGNA General Meeting**  
Holy Comforter Church  
Washington, D.C.

Saturday, December 9 TBD  
**Children's Christmas Party**  
Holy Comforter Church  
Washington, D.C.

*For further information:*

Jasmine Andrews (301) 890-4873  
Omegah Fair (202) 269-4816  
[SVGNAadc@aol.com](mailto:SVGNAadc@aol.com)



Indep. Church Service 2005

## Shortmus Productions caps off D.C. Carnival 2006, Ready for 2007

It's time to start thinking about D.C. Carnival 2007. So soon? Not for **Kenley "Shortmus" John** of Shortmus Productions. After taking a brief respite after June's carnival, he's ready to begin planning for next year, his company's 7th year putting a mas band on the road.

The band's theme for this past year was "Is We Kinda Ting," including sections titled "Earthly Queen," "Majestic," and "Serenity."

Mr. John was very pleased to see that Briana Joshua Golding from his band placed first in the junior individual female competition this year. She is the granddaughter of **Dayleen DeRiggs**.

Briana's mother, Athena, was instrumental in preparing costumes for the production. Mr. John told *Hairouna Times*, "That girl is good! And her level of commitment is outstanding." He noted that sewing ability is difficult to find

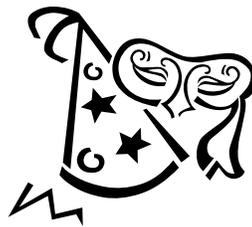


these days. Ms. DeRiggs and her daughter are pictured below.

In recent years, Shortmus Productions has increasingly solicited sponsorships for area city youths who are interested in playing mas. He believes firmly in giving these youngsters a positive opportunity to express themselves, and thinks their participation in D.C. Carnival can be such an outlet.

Mr. John, pictured above, is a vocal artist himself and produces other artists. He continues to ensure that the St. Vincent and the Grenadines flag is distinctly and proudly represented each year in D.C. Carnival.

For more information on the company and its events, visit [www.ShortmusProductions.com](http://www.ShortmusProductions.com).



## An Autumn Tea Party



A Caribbean-style tea party was hosted by St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church on September 23, 2006. **Sandra Bramble**, an SVGNA supporter, is co-chair of the Church's Social & Cultural Committee and was the mistress of ceremonies for the afternoon. Several SVGNA members enjoyed petite sandwiches, cakes and pastries. Ms. Bramble is also author of the skit that was performed after tea was served.



On November 12, St. John's Church will have a St. Vincent and the Grenadines Day, with a church service that morning. For more information, contact Jasmine Andrews at (301) 890-4873.

## Sweet Potato Delight

*This makes a tasty side dish for dinner.*

4 medium-size (Caribbean) sweet potatoes  
one 16 oz. can crushed pineapple  
sliced pineapples (optional)



Peel and cook sweet potatoes.

While the potatoes are still hot, mash them.

Add crushed pineapple.

Place in a greased casserole dish.

Use fork to make a design.

Garnish with sliced pineapples cut in halves.

Bake in a preheated 375° oven for approximately 20 minutes.

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines**  
**Nationals Association of Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 2250  
Washington, D.C. 20013