



Hairouna Times

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

Spring 2008

Inside this Issue

- 1 Schools Give Thanks
- 2 Vincy Homecoming 2009
- 3 Atlantic City Bus Trip
- 4 2008 Upcoming Events

The Executive Board

President

Lennox Simon

Vice President

Jasmine Andrews

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

Jasmine Andrews

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

P.O. Box 2250
Washington, DC 20013

www.SVGNAdc.com
SVGNAdc@aol.com

Hairouna Times

Editor: Eppie Marecheau
Asst. Editor: Brenda Simms



Albie Crick (left), on behalf of Godfred Pompey, accepts SVGNA's award to Mr. Pompey at the 2007 Independence Dinner. As the liaison in SVG for the schools project, Mr. Pompey coordinates delivery of SVGNA's donations.

Schools Give Their Thanks for SVGNA's Efforts

SVGNA members and friends enjoy themselves at several events throughout the year--and that fun contributes to a worthy cause.

The Association has adopted seven primary schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Through its Educational and Charities Projects Committee, each year, several barrels of school supplies are shipped to these schools for use by students and teachers.

Proceeds from SVGNA functions are used to purchase materials, and Albie Crick, chair of the committee, solicits members and supporters for other donations.

This year, several schools wrote to SVGNA, expressing thanks. Excerpts from their warm greetings are below:

Mary Hutchinson Primary

"We have received all the supplies that you mentioned. I am pleased to say that we are in urgent need of all of them especially the printer. You

continued on page 2

Vincy Homecoming 2009

The Vincentian government is hoping "Vincy Homecoming 2009" becomes a road march of sorts, enticing Vincentians in the diaspora to visit home next year.

Ambassador Ellsworth John, now the director of SVG's Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit, was in Washington on April 28 to present the outline of this initiative. Described as a "major, major undertaking," Vincy Homecoming 2009 will be a year-long occasion.

Because the effort could potentially involve so many returning Vincentians, the celebration would be staggered, with communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines hosting their homecomings at various times during the year.

There are events currently--such as History and Heritage month, Easter, Carnival, African Liberation Day and Independence--around which the government would like to build activities. Each community would select a period of the year and plan various additional cultural and educational activities for members of the diaspora.

"One of the complaints we hear is that outside of Carnival and Christmas, there is really nothing to do," John said.

The first phase of the project's timeline aims for June of this year. "We intend by the end of June to visit all the major communities overseas...It is very important for persons in the diaspora and communities at home to feel like they are part of this project." At that point, schedules should be developed

and promotions can be prepared for the public, beginning with visitors arriving for Carnival 2008.

According to John, the government is simply coordinating Vincy Homecoming 2009; they are urging Vincentians at home and abroad to take full ownership of organizing the effort, supplying their own ideas and suggestions. He anticipated SVGNA would be integral to the outreach and organizing efforts in the Washington area.

The government hopes everyone has a good time during Vincy Homecoming 2009, especially while celebrating the nation's 30th anniversary of independence. However, John explained that the project's further goals include generating economic activity in the country, rejuvenating community spirit, spurring interest in capital investment and highlighting achievements and needs of the communities.

Much of the audience feedback during the meeting at the embassy revolved around concerns about service when Vincentians living abroad return home. Ambassador John acknowledged that "service at all levels--whether it's government or private sector--is poor." He noted that this would be addressed during the preparations by training government entities that interface with the public and encouraging businesses to focus on customer service. "We're looking at how we can make this a welcoming experience."

The official theme of Vincy Homecoming 2009 is "As one people in many lands, we shape our future with many hands."

continued from page 1 **[Schools Give Their Thanks]**

really anticipate our needs. Please thank all the members of your organisation for us. We are very grateful to them and to you too for your concern."

-- Vernice Williams, Principal

Rose Hall Government School

"We have received your gifts almost at the end of the last term and now wish through this correspondence to express our heartiest thanks and appreciation for your generosity. We are already finding every item most useful...Our institution is much better off as a result of these gifts."

-- Gosnell Williams, Principal

Barrouallie Anglican School

"A very special note of thanks, that's coming to express appreciation for the way you showed such thoughtfulness."
-- signed by 18 members of the school's staff

* * *



Santa and Helpers get into the act at SVGNA's 2007 children's Christmas party. To see more pics, visit the photo gallery at the Association's Web site.

Bus Trip to Atlantic City

Saturday, May 3, 2008

*7:30 a.m. departure
from Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C.*

cost: \$35

*(\$20 will be refunded to you in
Showboat Casino money or cash.)*

Light refreshments served on board the bus.

Enjoy the day, with all Atlantic City has to offer:

Casino Games

Boardwalk

Outlet Shopping (No retail tax on clothing or shoes!)

Dining

Trolley Tours

Museums

Arcades

*For more information, contact a member of the
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association
of Washington, D.C. or*

Lennox Simon (301) 218-0085

Omegah Fair (202) 269-4816

SVGNA supports the Capital Area Food Bank. Please help us donate non-perishable items to replenish its shelves. Collect a can and bring it to the bus trip or other events.

2008 Upcoming Events



Saturday, May 3 7:30 am
Atlantic City Bus Trip
Rock Creek Park departure
Washington, D.C.

Saturday, May 10 7:00 pm
SVGNA Annual Meeting & Elections
Holy Comforter Church
Washington, D.C.

**The Association welcomes you.
Become a member or attend a meeting!*

Saturday, July 19 11:30 pm
Midnight Cruise on the Potomac
Waterfront
Washington, D.C.

Sunday, August 24 TBD
Annual Picnic
Rock Creek Park
Washington, D.C.

For further information, contact:

Lennox Simon (301) 218-0085
Jasmine Andrews (301) 890-4837
Omegah Fair (202) 269-4816

www.SVGNAdc.com

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