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Hairouna Times

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

SVGNA-DC Launches Its Web Site

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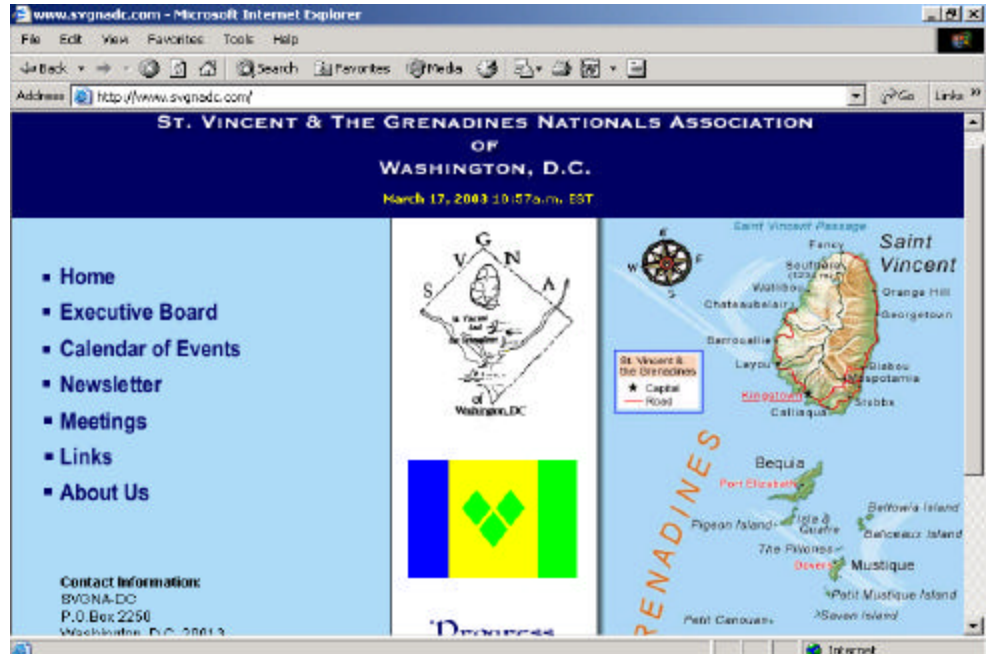
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With little fanfare and no hype, SVGNA-DC launched its web site in December 2002. In so doing, we opened our window to the world and established a home on the World Wide Web. The site can be viewed at www.svgnadc.com. Our email address is svgnadc@aol.com.

The web site is quite simple and very easy to use. There are options available from the navigational bar to allow free movement throughout the site. Contact information (the official mailing address and the official email address) is prominently displayed on the front page.

Our country's flag is displayed proudly between the organization's logo and our motto "Progress through Unity", in the center of the site's main page.

The Executive Board option will display the names and offices of all current members, and information about our Past

Presidents is also available from the About Us option. There are links to the Embassy of St. Vincent & The Grenadines and to radio stations in St. Vincent.

We encourage feedback, opinions and suggestion about our web site. Please feel free to forward your comments through email or to any member of the Executive Board.



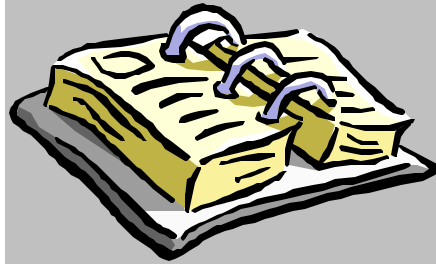
Several Vincentians in the military have been given orders to join the forces fighting the war in Iraq. Included in that group is one of our members, Sharon Falby. She has left to join the troops in the region. Please remember to keep them in your prayers as we ask for guidance and their safe return.

ULP Does the Mid-Term Shuffle

Taken from *svgbc.com* and *nbcsvg.com*

In a surprise move Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves announced ministerial changes in the ministries of Agriculture, Lands, Surveys and Fisheries, and Social Development and Gender Affairs. Various subject areas were also assigned. Girlyn Miguel is now Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries; Selmon Walters is now Minister of Social Development, Cooperatives, The Family, Gender and Ecclesiastic Affairs. Conrad Sayers has been reassigned as Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Planning. Glen Beache, Marketing Manager of Tourism and Offshore Finance Services, and son of Sir Vincent Beache, will replace Andrea Young as Senator to be Parliamentary Secretary or Junior Minister in the Ministry of Transport, Works, and Housing. The subject of Copyright will be assigned to René Baptiste and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. The subjects of Elections and the Electoral Office will be the additional responsibility of Sir Vincent, Minister of National Security, Public Service, and Airport Development. The subject of Postal Services shifts to the Office of the Prime Minister. Crown Lands and Surveys move to the Ministry of Planning, also under the Prime Minister's portfolio. Dr. Gonsalves says that as a leader it is his duty to look for opportunities on an ongoing basis to enhance the overall quality of the government's performance. According to him the team cannot rest on its laurels of the past 22 months hence these changes. In his thirty-minute address to the nation, simulcast live on television and various radio stations, the Prime Minister sought to put any doubts to rest by pointing out that the changes were carefully thought out. The ministerial and portfolio changes took effect from Monday February 10th 2003. Additionally, Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's office Senator Edwin Snagg has been named this country's representative to the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Snagg also has responsibilities for Grenadines Affairs.

Calendar of Events 2003



- ✘ **May 3—Annual Bus Ride**
Atlantic City, New Jersey
- ✘ **May 10—SVGNA-DC Annual Meeting** – Election of Officers
- ✘ **May 31 – July 8**
St. Vincent & The Grenadines Carnival, Kingstown, St. Vincent
- ✘ **July 19—Annual Moonlight Cruise/Raffle---**Spirit of Washington
- ✘ **Aug 24—Annual Family Picnic**
Rock Creek Park, Lot #6
- ✘ **Oct 19—Independence Church Service---**Holy Comforter Church
- ✘ **Oct 25—Independence Dance—**
OAS, 17th & Constitution Aves,
Washington, D.C
- ✘ **Dec 13--Children's Christmas Party--**Holy Comforter Church,
7th & Oglethorpe Streets, N.W.
- ✘ **Dec 27—Holiday Fund Raising Dance—**Venue: To be Announced

For further information call:
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SVGNA-DC Congratulates Ambassador John & Members Of The Embassy on Cultural Symposium

On Saturday March 8th 2003, the Embassy of St. Vincent & The Grenadines hosted a cultural symposium in Brooklyn, New York. Vincentians throughout the United States and Canada attended the function. Its main purpose was to bring Vincentian nationals together to discuss, share, embrace and show off the unique aspects of our culture. This successful symposium promises to be an annual event.

SVGNA-DC Congratulates Grenada On Twenty Nine Years Of Independence

Grenada, our closest neighbor to the south, is quite often thought of as a single island. Indeed, Grenada is a three-island state consisting of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique. Grenada became an Independent nation on February 7th 1974. The Grenada Cultural and Social Association, a local group of Grenadian nationals, partners with SVGNA-DC for our annual family picnic and annual moonlight cruise and raffle.

SVGNA-DC Congratulates St. Lucia On Twenty Four Years Of Independence

On February 22nd 1979, St. Lucia became completely independent from England. St. Lucia was granted full self-government in 1967, thus ending the constitution enacted in 1960. Included in the list of outstanding St. Lucians are Mr. Derek Walcott, 1992 Nobel Prize winner for Literature, and the late Sir W. Arthur Lewis, 1979 Nobel Prize winner for Economics. The St. Lucian Nationals Association of D.C, Virginia and Maryland will host their Independence Dinner and Dance on April 26th 2003 at the Organization of American States in Washington D.C.

Commissioner Appointed To Head Inquiry Into Ottley Hall Project

Taken from svgbc.com and nbcsvg.com

Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves announced that Governor General Sir Frederick Ballantyne has appointed Retired Judge Justice Ephraim Georges to carry out a commission of Inquiry into the Ottley Hall Project. It was also announced that Dominican lawyer Anthony Astaphan would be the counsel to Justice Georges. Three investigators of international standing, Ross Gaffney former FBI Agent, Howard Jones of Scotland Yard and Rodney Gallager will be attached to the inquiry. The Commission of Inquiry is slated to begin on April 7th 2003, at the Peace Memorial hall. Dr. Gonsalves outlined a 15-point Terms of Reference, approved by the Cabinet, which will guide the Commission of Inquiry. Dr. Gonsalves pointed out that the Commission of



Inquiry into the project should not be seen as a witch hunt but another fulfillment of the Unity Labour Party's (ULP) promise made in the party's manifesto. The commissioner is mandated to submit an initial report to the Governor General within six months, and the final report in twelve months. The Commission of Inquiry Act has been amended allowing the investigators wide powers.

Eighty million US dollars, which is equivalent to 225 million EC dollars was borrowed from a consortium of European Banks to finance the failed Ottley Hall project which includes a shipyard and marina.

Reminder

Monthly general meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month 7:00 p.m:
The Holy Comforter Episcopalian Church
701 Oglethorpe St, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011

St. Vincent & The Grenadines Government Begins Constitution Review

With the creation of the Constitutional Review Commission, the Government of St. Vincent and The Grenadines began the process that will eventually lead to a Constitution Reform. The Constitutional Review Commission is made up of 25 members, with Professor Nicholas Liverpool of Dominica, as Chairman and Mr. Parnel Campbell QC, appointed as its Deputy Chairman. The Commission will report directly to the Parliament. The existing Constitution of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was created in 1979, when Independent nation status was granted. The full text can be viewed at Georgetown University's, Political Databases of the America's website. www.georgetown.edu/pdba. Select English, Primary Document and make a selection from the drop down box.

SVGNA-DC Assists Kidney Transplant Patients

The Richmond Vincentian community recently appealed to SVGNA-DC on behalf of Sophia and Shawn Lewis. The Lewis' are from Campden Park and were in Richmond for Sophia's kidney transplant. Her brother Shawn was the kidney donor. The Lewis' stayed at the Medical College of Virginia Hospital hospitality house during their recovery. SVGNA-DC donated US\$450.00 to assist with living expenses during their stay in the Richmond Area. The Vincentian community in Richmond, also held a fund raiser hosted by Mr. Franklyn Horn to assist the Lewis'. Sophia and Shawn returned home to St. Vincent on March 15th 2003.

SVGNA-DC Hosts Annual Independence Church Service And Dinner & Dance 2002

On Sunday, Oct 20th 2002. SVGNA-DC hosted its annual Church Service at the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. The guest Preacher was Rev Hugh Hamilton from Connecticut. A donation of \$500 was presented to the Holy Comforter Church. On Saturday Oct 26th, SVGNA-DC hosted its dinner and dance at the O.A.S in Washington D.C. The keynote speaker for this semi-formal event was Ambassador Ellsworth John. Mr. Tresley Marecheau performed a very special arrangement of the national anthems of St. Vincent & the Grenadines and that of the United States. Bobby's Music machine provided the music for the evening.

SVGNA-DC Makes Donation to Storm Victims

President Lennox Simon presented a cheque to Ambassador Ellsworth John in the amount of \$2,500, to benefit the victims of Tropical Storm Lili. Tropical Storm Lili passed through St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Sept 23rd 2002, battering the country with high winds, high waves, and rain. Several homes and schools were damaged. The country's banana industry was hardest hit with as much as 45% of the crop destroyed. One family at Mt. Grenan lost four members. SVGNA-DC thanks Rev. Kortwright Davis and members of the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church for their help in raising these funds.

Children's Christmas Party 2002

A sincere "Thank You" to Mr. Oscar Hannaway for his donation to the Annual Children's Christmas Party. The Party took place on Dec 15th 2002. Santa Claus delivered a gift to every good boy and girl present. There were renditions of Christmas carols and individual performances. Food and drinks (non alcoholic) were provided for all attendees.

Caribbean Cooking Recipe

taken from jamaicans.com

Oxtails Stew



INGREDIENTS :

- 1 oxtail about 2-2.5 lb. Cut up
- 4 tblsp. cornflour
- 2 tblsp. cooking oil
- Salt and Black pepper
- 4 rashers (slices) Bacon (Sugar cured, rindless)
- 2 medium onions sliced
- 1 clove garlic crushed
- 4 carrots pared and sliced
- 1 cup peeled chopped tomatoes
- 1 pint (16 fl. Oz) hot water
- 2 stalks green onions finely sliced
- 1 spring thyme
- 1 can butter beans (Lima beans)

METHOD:

1. Trim away excess fat and place oxtail in boiling water for 2 to 3 minutes to blanch.

2. Drain well on absorbent paper and coat with cornflour.
3. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
4. Heat oil in heavy skillet and brown oxtail on both sides removing when brown.
5. Pour off excess fat.
6. Dice bacon and fry for a few minutes.
7. Return oxtail to pot with bacon, add carrots, onion, garlic, tomatoes and hot water.
8. Cover and simmer gently for 3.5 to 4 hours or until oxtail is almost tender.
9. At this stage add more liquid if necessary and season.
10. Cover and simmer for 20 to 30 minutes. Add the butter beans and allow to simmer for 3 to 4 minutes.
11. Serving for 4.

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