

# Q News

Over 350 years of quality family connections

Quanders United  
Quarterly Newsletter  
Winter 2022-23

## Greetings Quander Family!

The family newsletter has finally relaunched! I am excited that the avenues of communication are once again open to connect as many Quander family members as possible. We are in the process of rebuilding Quanders United to adapt to more current times.

We will need many of you to invest in this process by giving of yourselves, your time, and your ideas. We understand that life is busy and full of things that require a lot of your time. However, when more people participate as chairpersons and committee members, the less any single person needs to do. We are calling on all of us to step up our participation so we can bring ideas to fruition. Our board members are excited to help move Quanders United forward and forge a path to help us get to know each other better while having fun. We truly want to personify the Quanders UNITED name!

Please enjoy this newsletter! This is going to be one of our spaces to fill with information, announcements, and photos of our family. If you have any useful/informative/fun things to share, please submit to [quanderersunitedinc@gmail.com](mailto:quanderersunitedinc@gmail.com).

Peace, love & blessings,

Michelle Grimes, QU President

Submissions for the Spring newsletter due

**April 22, 2023**

Send to: [QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com](mailto:QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Enslaved at Mt. Vernon .....	2
QuandersUnited.org .....	2
QU Board Update.....	2
Jahmond Quander's 1799 .....	2
Quander Website.....	3
2023 Election.....	3
Centennial Mass (reprint).....	4
Family Fact.....	4
Annual Dues.....	5
Announcements .....	5
Feature Story Continued.....	6

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Board Meetings via Zoom  
7:00-8:00 pm  
3/1/23  
4/5/23  
5/3/23

## 2022-23 Board Members

**Michelle Grimes**  
President

**Solomon Masembwa**  
Vice President

**Kelci Reedy**  
Recording Secretary

**Larryl Matthews**  
Treasurer

**Sharon Peters-Martin**  
Financial Secretary

**Le Shaun Quander-Mosley**  
Archivist

## At-Large Board Members

**Joyce Bell**  
**Gina Blair**  
**Alicia Reedy**  
**LaTasha Ward**  
(vacant)

## JAHMOND “JAY” QUANDER OPENS 1799 PRIME, AN OLD TOWN BASED RESTAURANT

By Rohulamin Quander

In August 2022, Jahmond “Jay” Quander opened 1799 Prime restaurant, located at 110 S. Pitt, Street. While this is Jay’s first owned restaurant, this is not a new experience for him. The title, 1799 Prime, is both historic and reflective of the date of George Washington’s death, December 14, 1799. Several of our Quander ancestors were enslaved to Washington, working as spinners, cloth makers, and in other professions. Under the terms of the first president’s will, he provided for the freedom of his Mount Vernon enslaved, although he delayed their ability to leave the plantation until Martha’s death. Still the year 1799 was an indication of what was forthcoming and shed a bright light of approaching freedom from enslavement that inspired the still bound community.



With more than 30 years of restaurant management experience, Jay brings a wealth of knowledge. Among the many managerial positions he has held in the food service industry, Jay held the title and position of Director of Food and Beverage Operations at Mount Vernon. His prior managerial positions include general manager at Blackwall Hitch, located at dockside just off King Street in Old Town. Indicative of his intention to make

1799 Prime a great culinary institution of long and sustained presence, he successfully negotiated a contract, and purchased the building.



Jay is especially proud of the enticing steak and fresh seafood menu that characterizes 1799 Prime, further complemented by a tantalizing array of cocktails. Jay’s aim is to offer a wide variety of high-quality items, with a focus on something for every palate, creating a dining experience that will ensure guests returning often, and to encourage other patrons to make 1799 Prime a frequent dining location. His patrons can also select from a wide variety of well-prepared vegetarian options. Regarding the beautiful and artistically printed menus, not only do they list the copious offerings, they also highlight significant aspects of the famed Quander Family history. Jay assures that he has not lost touch with his historic roots and that typical comfort food options likewise appear on the menu, reflecting a “down home” sense of place.

In a recent conversation with cousin Rohulamin Quander, Jay expressed his heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the many family members and friends who are patronizing 1799 Prime and encourages newcomers to make his restaurant their destination. (Cont. on p. 6)

### WHAT HAS YOUR BOARD BEEN UP TO?

The Board has been working feverishly to update and edit the Quanders United Constitution and By-laws so the organization can operate under rules and procedures that are current. By now you have received and (hopefully) reviewed what the Board has put together. Any questions/suggestions provided by the general membership have been considered and addressed accordingly. The documents were formally presented to the general membership for a vote this past fall.

Any member may request a copy of the document(s) by sending an email to: [QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com](mailto:QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com).

- Organization Mission & Vision Statements (with members taking the lead)
- Updated By-laws and Constitution
- Board of Directors’ Policies & Procedures Manual (draft)

Your input would be greatly appreciated to help us improve:

- How to grow membership
- How to increase participation
- Streams of income we can participate in to help the organization
- How to unify the family—Quanders from all over

Rebuilding takes ideas, input and effort from as many members as possible. It is OUR organization to make or break. We are always looking for lots of family involvement and fresh ideas. It is so much better to have more member input and ideas than not enough. Reach out to us anytime!

**KEEP UP WITH QUANDER NEWS  
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE...ONLINE!**

***QuandersUnited.org***

These days, there aren't too many people who don't have access to the Internet. There is an abundance of information at our fingertips. Quanders United has been taking advantage of this technology for the past few years with a family website. Log-on with your computer, tablet, or phone to **QuandersUnited.org** to find out much of the latest goings on with the family!

***What can you see/do on the QuandersUnited.org?***

- Complete a membership form
- Pay your annual dues
- Upcoming events and announcements
- Family photos
- Books for sale by family authors
- News stories highlighting family members
- Notable achievements
- Remembrances

Take some time to peruse the site. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much information you'll find!

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**2023 ELECTIONS ARE COMING**

**TIME TO THROW YOUR NAME IN THE HAT!**

The 2023 elections to vote for Quanders United board members is fast approaching. Everyone is welcome to run for office! ALL offices are open for your consideration:

- President
- Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Financial Secretary
- Sergeant-at-Arms
- Chaplain
- (2) At-Large seats

Election date(s) not yet determined.

**Quanders United  
Committees**

***We need your help!***

An organization is only as good as its active members. We have several committees - old and new - that need your leadership, skills and time.

Please consider actively participating in one or more of the following committees:

- Communications
- Events (including a reunion sub-committee)
- Family Outreach
- Fundraising (sub-committee)
- Historical (formerly Archivist)
- Senior Advisory
- Youth Advisory

# AT CENTENNIAL MASS FOR HOLY REDEEMER PARISH IN D.C., CARDINAL SAYS ADVENT, LIKE CHURCH'S MILESTONE, IS A SPECIAL TIME OF GRACE

-MARK ZIMMERMANN

From: The Catholic Standard Newspaper, November 2022:

Celebrating a Nov. 27 Mass on the first Sunday of Advent at Holy Redeemer Church in Washington, D.C., marking the parish's 100th anniversary, Cardinal Gregory said that milestone, like the Advent season, should be a special time of grace, a time to pray and listen to God while making one's own journey of faith.

A parish history book prepared for the 100th anniversary reflects the theme "Upon These Rocks We Build Our Church" and pays tribute to the founding members and their legacy of faith continued by parishioners who followed them.

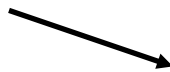
In 1917, more than 200 African-American Catholic families in Northwest Washington successfully petitioned Baltimore Cardinal James Gibbons to establish a church of their own, after experiencing discrimination at nearby St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church, where they had to sit in the balcony and wait to receive Communion after White Catholics. In 1919, they began meeting in the home of **Peter Mercer Quander Sr.**, a veteran of the Navy in World War I, to pray and plan for the construction of their church with their first pastor, Josephite Father Francis Tobin.

The founding of the parish unfolded during the infamous "Red Summer" of 1919 that was marked by lynchings, anti-Black riots and church burnings across the country meant to terrorize and drive out African-Americans from communities. The first major contribution for the construction of Holy Redeemer Church was an \$8,000 donation in 1921 from Mother Katharine Drexel, the Philadelphia

heiress and future saint who founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to serve Black and Native Americans. Sisters from her order staffed Holy Redeemer School from when it opened in 1954 until 1981. Later

Religious of the Sacred Heart and Sisters of the Holy Family from New Orleans, along with lay people, staffed the parish school, which closed in 2010. Holy Redeemer Church was dedicated in 1922, and by the church's 25th anniversary in 1947, it had become a major source of evangelization for Black Catholics in the nation's capital, with the parish having nearly 5,000 members in the years after World War II.

Father Bava, who has served as the pastor of Holy Redeemer for the past 28 years since January 1995, praised the legacy of faith of the founding parishioners that has shaped the generations that have worshiped at the church over the past 100 years.



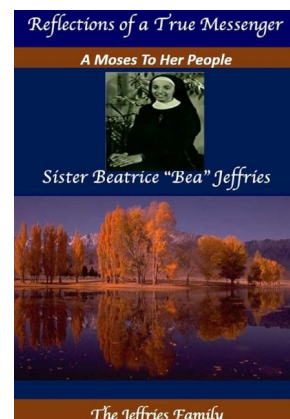
## RELATED FAMILY FACT...

### ANOTHER CONNECTION TO MOTHER KATHARINE DREXEL

Our family member, Sr. Beatrice (Bea) Jeffries (1946-2006), dedicated her life to the Lord. She was deeply involved in the movement to elevate Mother Drexel to sainthood. Read all about Sr. Bea in a biography about her life written by her siblings, The Jeffries Family.

You can get your copy of **Reflection of a True Messenger, A Moses to Her People: Sister Beatrice "Bea" Jeffries**, here:

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/the-jeffries-family/sister-beatrice-bea-jeffries/paperback/product-1y8n9pnd.html?page=1&pageSize=4>



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES—FEBRUARY 2023

The timing of the re-launch of *Q News* may make paying your dues on-time pretty tricky for some. No worries — don't let the deadline stop you! Kindly pay as soon as you are able. These funds are continually collected and are extremely helpful in the functioning of our organization, i.e. web hosting, events, postage, bulk email service, food for in-person events, offset some costs for other events, Zoom and event insurance.

Currently, dues are \$15 per family (i.e. parents with minor children/children in college), and \$15 for working adults 18 years and older. **From this year forward, annual dues will be due on *February 1st of each year.***

Send checks to: QU Treasurer, 3850 Carpenter St., SE, Washington, DC 20020

Electronic payments may be made via **CashApp**: \$QuanderFamily OR **PayPal**: QuanderFinance@gmail.com

Newly updated By-laws and Constitution passed a member vote in November 2022. As a result, members of Quanders United aged 70 years and older, who have a history of actively participating in the organization, can request their annual dues be waived. It requires Board approval, but if YOU are in this category, either send an email to quandersunitedinc@gmail.com or call Kelci Reedy, Recording Secretary at (240) 988-5366.

**THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPDATES

**William Quander Taylor** shared several notable events for his family since the last newsletter:

- He was elevated to the highest non-elected position in the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of the Nobles of Mystic Shrine
- He officially retired
- Grandson, Christian J. Dailey graduated from Delaware State
- Welcomed great granddaughter, Lavender Gee on 8/5/21

### GRADUATIONS

Gabriel M. Williams c/o 2022  
Delaware State University

### LOSSES

Phillip C. Jeffries 12/3/22  
Charlotte L. Quander Ware 1/13/23

### BIRTHDAYS

Paul Jeffries 12/1  
Rohulamin Quander 12/4  
Jillise Taylor 12/6  
Gabriel Williams 12/7  
Vanessa Blair-Lewis 12/10  
Rosalyn Hillary 12/16  
Rohulamin D. Quander 12/20  
Shona Grimes 12/23  
Solomon Masembwa 12/24  
Sandra Rattley 12/24  
Jerome Pearson 12/24  
Akia Quanderjordan 12/25  
David Williams 12/26  
Erin Smith-Katz 12/29  
LaTasha Ward 1/3  
Monica Bumbray 1/18  
Yvette Quander-Jackson 1/23  
Edward Neverdon 1/28  
Theodore (TJ) Jeffries 1/30



## JAHMOND QUANDER OPENS 1799 PRIME (Cont. from p. 2)

He noted that he has met many new Quander relatives since opening, including Julian Quander, Cousin Rohulamin's nephew, who was visiting from Xiamen, China, where he resides, has business interests, and is a musical performer. Fortuitously, the restaurant served as the first-time meeting place



for Julian and his brother Christopher, to meet Jack Grayson Quander, Jay's son, who was home for the Christmas holiday. Jack is enrolled at the University of New Haven, Connecticut, where he plays football.

Jay's goal is to promote the 1799 Prime site via presenting several aspects of the Quander legacy and Historic Alexandria in artistic format. To do this, he commissioned muralist Sabrina Rupprecht to create a nine-panel mural reflecting key components of Quander Family history, traced from Ghana, West Africa - the 17th Century ancestral homeland of the Quanders - to the Americas, with a focus upon the Virginia-Maryland region, including Old Town Alexandria and Mount Vernon, perhaps the main identifying site of Quander history. Fittingly, the ninth and last panel depicts Jay Quander standing at the entrance to his restaurant, a signal of welcome to a fine dining experience. Looking to the near future, plans are underway for cousin Rohulamin to be featured at a book signing event, probably in March 2023, where he will offer his latest, *The Quanders, Since 1684, an Enduring African American Legacy*.

Since the mid-19th century, Quander ancestors have owned tracts of land along what is currently identified as Quander Road, located in the Spring Bank area. Quanders farmed the land and operated a produce and dairy market in the King Street market from the late 1800s until

1964. Their market was less than two blocks from the 1799 Prime site.

1964. Their market was less than two blocks from the 1799 Prime site.

From the South Pitt Street approach, the internal guest capacity is deceiving. Guests will enter via a narrow iron gate walkway located on the building's left side, an initial architectural impression that was typical of Old Town in the mid-1800s. Entering the restaurant, the guests are immediately introduced to the Quander legacy, including names of revered ancestors and scenes depicting the family history. Traversing the premises, guests are seated in a variety of spaces, including the George Washington room with its cozy fireplace, the Potomac room, the Charles dining room, and Elizabeth's quarters, the latter two spaces named in



honor of Charles Henry Quander and Elizabeth Jane Quander. Beyond the internal spaces, the rear of the restaurant opens to a spacious outdoor patio, where full service for all aspects of 1799 Prime is offered. The patio and the setup are not visible from the street, making the venue private and suitable for a variety of intimate events.

Having cultivated his food service experiences over the decades, Jay underscored that he is not undertaking this project alone. He credits the carefully created and planned operation to several others, but especially Eleazar "Sonny" Tena, Co-Founder and COO, whose menu and food offerings make all the difference.



Conceived as a special place and destination, Jay and his team are poised for success. Join them at the 1799 Prime, to assure that it happens. Also, visit Steak & Seafood's menus on their website at [1799prime.com](http://1799prime.com), consult Info @1799Prime, or call (571) 867-9595. Reservations are recommended.