

# L'OUVERTURE

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## GREETINGS FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON, MIKE MOÏSE

Dear Members and Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my honor to introduce you to the L'Ouverture Cultural Society, Inc (LCS), a social cultural organization that was founded by seven individuals last May. Coming together electronically, out of respect for safety concerns on a Saturday afternoon, they planted the seeds that have blossomed into this dynamic new organization.

With the overarching goal of promoting and preserving our Haitian heritage and culture, we see the society's mission as promoting Haitian history, culture and customs as well as providing an opportunity for networking through educational and social cultural activities. We envision an environment where the diverse experiences of our members would offer opportunities to foster personal growth and contribute to the well-being of the larger Haitian community. Specifically, we want to create an environment that is very inclusive, where everyone is treated with respect, a safe place to share ideas, life experiences, develop friendships, and connect with like-minded and thought-provoking individuals.

I am truly privileged to serve as the Chairperson of L'Ouverture Cultural Society, Inc., while also extremely humbled to be leading this organization during this most pivotal time in history. What a tumultuous time these past few months have been? The winds of change have brought to us a continually vicious pandemic, a powerful racial equity movement through grassroots protests, both within the US and around the world demanding equal treatment for BLACK people, particularly with respect to much needed police reforms. Although the challenges are many, and the paths to success hardly unencumbered, we are determined to plow ahead to bring forth impactful programs and events that educate, inspire, and grow our organization.

Thriving on devotion and kindness, founders and now board members elected for a three-year term, made a financial commitment to provide the startup funding and do not receive any remuneration for their involvement, working entirely and solely as volunteers. My commitment to each one of you is to always be fully transparent and to work collaboratively with our very seasoned and dedicated Board of Directors. As we move into this new journey, I would like you to become a member of the LCS family. No organization can survive without members, and the Board and I recognize that strong thoughtful programs are needed to attract members.

If you would please indulge me for a moment, I would like to share my vision for our organization and where we are headed. First and foremost, I am committed to developing creative ways in which LCS can bring value to you as a member. For one, we have already begun highly active discussions about thoughtful programs and high-quality presentations that foster personal growth and likely to further enhance knowledge sharing among our members. Through our programs you can expect: cutting edge information from various professional disciplines, including business, law, mental health, medicine and theology, as well as the commemoration of significant historical events and dates in an atmosphere that promotes our prized and valued cultural practices and traditions. For example, this Newsletter promises to be a valuable platform for sharing information and knowledge through articles that are of exceptional quality. Thus, I invite you to look carefully at our Newsletter and certainly encourage you to submit an article for future publication.

In closing, my request to each of you is to fully engage in LCS and participate in this endeavor by becoming a member and attending our programs. Additionally, your everyday contacts and networks are great new-membership sources for LCS. I know many more members of our community would benefit greatly from the programs of our organization. Please tell your friends, co-workers, and acquaintances about us, and encourage them to become a member. Last but not least, share this newsletter with everyone you know.

Lastly, I'm looking forward to meeting each and every one of you, and would appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached at [info@Louvturecs.org](mailto:info@Louvturecs.org) or, when it would be safe, we could meet and speak in person at one of our future scheduled program meetings. As Margaret Mead once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

I trust, I can count on your support and encouragement.

Mike Moïse





# MEET THE L'OUVERTURIANS



**MIKE MOÏSE, MBA**  
CHAIRPERSON

**MIKE MOISE WAS BORN IN HAITI.** At a young age, he emigrated with his parents to the United States, settling in New York city. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accountancy from Bernard M. Baruch College of the City University of New York and a Master of Business Administration in finance and international business from the University of Miami School of Business.

Mike started his career working on Wall Street in New York City. He is a highly accomplished Accounting and Finance leader with over 15 years of Fortune 500 professional business experience. Results oriented, he is a persuasive leader with experience in the following industries: Construction, Energy, Insurance, International Markets, Financial Services, and Retail, with expertise in General Accounting, Financial Reporting, Financial Planning & Analysis, Budgeting, Cash Management, Consolidation, Mergers & Acquisitions, and ERP/Capital projects implementation.

Currently, Mike works for a fortune 500 company in the Energy sector and is also a Board member of the African American Professional Employees Group (AAPEG). Additionally, he has traveled back many times in the past five years to his native country of Haiti as a volunteer with several non-profit organizations that visited remote areas in Haiti to provide much needed medical and dental services for free to the underprivileged, primarily women and children. Mike also volunteers for various non-profit organizations in the South Florida area such as the Palm Beach SECME - Diversity in STEM Education and he is very passionate about education and giving back to his community through volunteering.

Mike is married and he and his wife are proud parents of a teenage young lady, who is 15 years old. In his personal life, Mike enjoys reading, travelling and spending time with friends and family. 🌐



**JEAN-CLAUDE DUTÈS, PHD**  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON

**DR. DUTÈS** is a retired faculty member and former head of the Neuropsychology/Psychology Section at the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University, where he is still an Adjunct Clinical Professor. He is licensed as a psychologist in Florida and Michigan and has more than 35 years of professional experience in clinical, counseling, and cross-cultural psychology, with expertise in rehabilitation and neuropsychology. Last January, he retired for a second time from his position as a Cross Cultural Psychologist with the Louis and Anne Memory and Wellness Center at Florida Atlantic University's College of Nursing. Just before joining FAU, he directed the Children Community Wellness program, an Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, working with underserved children and families that included a substantial group of Haitian immigrants and their descendants.

A scientist clinician and educator, Dr. Dutès has worn many hats. He is a member of the editorial board of, and a contributor to, the Revue Haitienne de Santé Mentale and has assisted the Société Haitienne de Psychologie through gifted training supplies and lectures to psychology students at L'université D'État D'Haiti, and has also published in professional journals here in the U.S. As an educator, he has taught and supervised graduate psychology and master's level mental health counseling students and participated in the training of medical students and residents.

With a deep sense of attachment to his cherished Haiti, he has been involved in projects aimed at the Haitian community throughout his adolescence and adulthood. At age 17, he taught English to Haitian immigrants as part of the Haitian Educational Advancement Program. In college, he was one of the presidents of the Haitian Student Club and the founder of the student magazine "Fumée." While in graduate school in Michigan, he was involved with the Haitian Refugee Relief Committee, and in the early 90's, he helped Haitian refugees adjust to their resettlement in Michigan. For the last twenty years, he has been working with the Haitian Network Group of Detroit (HNGD) as guest lecturer, keynote speaker, performer, board member and newsletter editor. After the cataclysmic earthquake of 2010, he chose to invest part of his free time as a volunteer, putting his clinical skills at the service of the students and staff of the Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de Léogane at L'Université Épiscope d'Haiti. Sensitive to the cultural differences between the United States, where he was educated and Haiti where he was born, he developed and implemented a one session evaluation and intervention that helped the students learn more effective stress management and coping strategies that are in harmony with their cultural values and personal growth needs.

Dr. Dutès believes in living a balanced life. He endures the solitude and tolerates the freedom of celibacy. An avid tennis player, you can find him honing his skills on the court most mornings. From a family of six, he has only one child and a darling granddaughter. When not calling on family in New York, he is visiting his son and his family in Chicago or friends in Michigan. Were it not for COVID-19, you would likely run into him at the theater, foreign films showings, Miami book fair, life-long education lectures, and, at times, at a dancing club.

In retirement, Dr. Dutès, who is a student of history, has helped to create the Louverture Cultural Society, Inc with the goal of promoting Haitian history and culture in the United States; spurring the interest of our youth in learning about our contribution to the world; and in preserving our most valued traditions. 🌐



*"Men Rara..." Dr. Dutès, in orange shirt, dancing in Rara parade, HNGD 2019 Art Festival, Farmington, Michigan. Mr. Gerald Joanis, center with whistle, came from Haiti to lead the Rara parade.*

B I O G R A P H I E S




**GUYLAINE L. RICHARD, MD, MPH**  
SECRETARY

**DR. RICHARD** is a medical graduate from the School of Medicine and Pharmacy in Haiti; a graduate from the George Washington University School of Medicine and Public Health and the John Hopkins University School of Professional Studies in Business and Education. She earned a professional certification on the Science of Happiness at Work from the University of California, Berkley. She brings more than 25 years of experience leading successful programs, educating and providing training and technical assistance in the field of public health, administration and education to various national and international agencies serving at-risk populations. Dr. Richard is the founder and chairperson of WISEOP, Inc. a non-profit organization dedicated to the attainment of self-sufficiency through education and leadership. She is the President of Guylaine Richard, LLC, a woman, veteran, minority owned and certified small business enterprise providing training and consultation to local, regional, national and international programs in the areas of leadership, organizational development, program quality and staff professional development. She a certified project development manager from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). She is a life coach and well-known national trainer in leadership, organizational and professional development, cultural diversity and equity.


In addition, Dr. Richard has held several positions in Head Start and has had the distinct privilege to be recognized as a National Head Start Fellow, where she developed new project initiatives for the Health and Disabilities Branch, as well as representing the Family and Youth Services Bureau in research and health initiatives with other Federal agencies. She brings a wealth of experience as a Head Start Director, Training and Technical Assistance Health Specialist, Start-up Planner, and Head Start Federal Reviewer in the areas of Program Design and Management, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, Disabilities and Early Head Start.

Presently Dr. Richard works as the Training and Technical Assistance Development Director of the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center at Children Boston Hospital. She is the Childhood Education International, Inc. (CEI) Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and oversee a team of experts in early childhood in the region.

She is known for her passion for children, youth, pregnant women, and her true commitment to delivery of quality services. Dr. Richard may be reached by phone at (561) 542-4630 or via e-mail at [guyerichard@gmail.com](mailto:guyerichard@gmail.com). 



**FRANTZ Y. RICHARD, MS**  
TREASURER

**MR. RICHARD** is a dedicated Broker Associate and Mortgage Loan Originator licensed with the State of Florida NMLS ID #1334995 with over 25 plus years of experience in the fields of Real Estate investing and Mortgages. He is retired from the US Air Force and is a former civil servant, with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology from Southern Illinois University and a Master of Science in Procurement and Acquisitions Management. His purpose in life is to help and assist people in achieving their dream of homeownership and home affordability. His professionalism with his entrepreneurial spirit has led to multiple management and ownership positions. He is consistently dedicated in all aspects of daily operations with a proven sales and leadership track record in management. He also volunteers for various non-profits organizations in the South Florida area and he is very passionate about education and giving back to his community through volunteering. Mr. Richard can be reached by phone at (561) 733-8839 or via e-mail at [FrantzYvansRichard@gmail.com](mailto:FrantzYvansRichard@gmail.com). 



**COSY CLERGÉ-JOSEPH, MS**  
DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL  
COMMUNICATIONS

**MS. JOSEPH WAS BORN IN LES CAYES HAITI.** She emigrated to the United States in 1981 and pursued her academic studies in New York. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science at Pace University and later obtained a Masters of Science in Management at Stevens Institute of Technology. Cosy started her career in computers at AT&T and currently has a thriving career at Florida Power & Light where she is an established leader in her field.

Cosy's life has been one that is remarkably dedicated to service. In her quest to increase women's presence in her chosen field, Cosy has mentored young women in the field of Technology. Cosy's mentees are now on their way to successful careers at several fortune 500 companies. In a field where women are scarce, Cosy remains an inspiration for other women to have the courage to pursue a career in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Cosy not only serves the community through local organizations such as Leadership Palm Beach County, Executive Women of the Palm Beaches, Boynton Beach Sister Cities, CLÉ Haitian Sisterhood, L'Ouverture Cultural Society, but is also deeply involved in helping the people of Haiti. In 1999, when Cosy's eldest brother, Gaskov Clergé, passed away suddenly, she channeled her grief into the creation of a new charitable foundation. Joining forces with his friends and her family, she founded the Gaskov Clergé Foundation (GCF), a nonprofit and philanthropic organization established to promote health, sports, education and sciences in both the United States and Haiti.

For over 20 years, Cosy has selflessly dedicated a significant part of her life to lead and grow GCF's philanthropic operations, which are focused on empowering individuals one life at a time. Under her leadership, GCF has grown from a small organization that offers medical missions to under-privileged women and children in Haiti, to an established Health Care provider leader in Haiti. As a visionary Leader, Cosy forged relationships with key partners to raise both financial and human resources for the construction of a modern medical center which now provides affordable health care to over 15,000 under privileged patients a year.

Through her organization, Cozy has given over 500 US volunteers the opportunity to study Tropical Medicine as they bring health care to over 20,000 underserved women and children in Haiti. GCF's volunteers have made many critical life-saving interventions for patients who would have otherwise lost their lives due to non-existent access to health care. One remarkable aspect of her work is the impact on the High School and College students who have been inspired and empowered by her work to pursue their education in the medical field. Many of those students are women who have become Medical Doctors, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and Bio-Medical Engineers. The medical and relief missions led by Cosy have profoundly impacted both the local volunteers who live in South Florida, as well as the patients in Haiti. In addition, through the generosity of many, GCF now provides scholarships to over 150 children a year in Haiti, giving them an opportunity for a decent education and a brighter future. Most of those students are women who are now graduating as Doctors, lawyers, and nurses.

Cosy is happily married to her childhood sweetheart Anseleme Joseph. She has two children (now adults) and enjoys a vibrant social life filled with fun times with her family and friends.

Cosy believes her gift is to unite people from all walks of life to serve others, and she achieves her purpose by providing those in need with access to quality health care and education so they can face the world with courage and hope. 🌍



**JOCELYNE CAMEAU, MPS**  
DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL  
COMMUNICATIONS

**MS. CAMEAU** is a Registered Nurse (RN), with over 30 years of combined administration experience, working in New York and Florida, in Geriatric Nursing and as the Director Clinical Home Health Services. Jocelyne holds an associate's degree in nursing from the University of the State of New York, a bachelor's degree in community health education from York College (CUNY) and a master's degree in health care administration from CWPost Long Island University.

Interested in deepening her knowledge base and broadening her skills set, Ms. Cameau's academic training included post graduate studies at New York University (NYU) in International Health Education, with an internship in Kenya, Africa on how to develop a healthcare system from scratch. A trailblazer, Ms. Cameau is one of the Founding Members of NADONA (National Director of Nursing Administrators), Founding Member and President of FADONA (Florida DONA) and PBCA (Palm Beach County DONA). Recognizing her expertise in administration, Ms. Cameau was appointed as an Ombudsman twice for District 9, Palm Beach County by Governor Bob Martinez and Governor Lawton Chiles and, distinguishing herself by her community involvement, she received The Jefferson Award for Outstanding Community Services from WPEC TV12, and The Leading Lady Award from The Network Connection.

During the spring break of her first year in college, Ms. Cameau volunteered at L'Hopital de L'University de L'Etat d'Haiti (L'Hopital General) in the medical /surgical unit as a clinical assistant and patient advocate. Then she continued to give back to her community by volunteering annually in Queens New York organizing Health Fair at HAUP (Haitian American United for Progress). During the sudden devastation of the HIV pandemic in the 80's, Ms. Cameau joined the Medical Physician Association in New York. Along with other members, she fought tirelessly to clear Haitians of the stigma associated with being unscientifically linked to the disease, forcing the CDC to reverse itself and remove the outrageous claim from the books.

After moving to Florida, Ms. Cameau initiated Local Health Fairs in West Palm Beach with Klib Zanmi Ayisyen with the help and support of an excellent team of medical and non-medical Haitians in the community. She was very instrumental in organizing an HIV presentation in English, Spanish, French and Creole together with three very well-known respected local Haitian Physicians that was aired in its entirety on WPBS-TV. Ms. Cameau's most recent Health Fair was in Cotes-de-Fer, in Haiti in March 2014 with the Non-Profit organization that she founded: Bringing Hope to the Forgotten, Inc.

Responding to the diversity of persons in need, Ms. Cameau has been a volunteer with the American Red Cross since 2010 as a DAT (Disaster Action Team) during Hurricanes and other emergencies and an OCML (On-Call Medical Liaison) for the Security Administration Service to the Armed Forces. She also volunteered at the Veterans Affairs (VA) in WPB in the Hospice Unit assisting patients as needed.

Sensitive to the plight of persons enduring difficult life situations, Ms. Cameau has always had a passion to reach out to help the underserved, promote good health, and individual self-improvement, while stressing the importance of the positive contributions that Haitians have made to Black historical achievements and to the history of the world. 🌍



**MARIE-IGNACE  
GAUTHIER MOREL, MD, FACOG**  
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP  
& RECRUITMENT

**DR. MOREL** is a Perinatologist, board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine with over 20 years of professional experience. Currently, she is practicing at Perinatal and Gynecologic Specialists of the Palm Beaches, a private practice group that specializes in the care of high-risk pregnancy, and is the director of the Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center at St Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach. The center is dedicated to serving high-risk indigent pregnant women living in South Florida. Dr. Morel found this aspect of her practice to be one of the most fulfilling. Mixing practicing with teaching, she trains third-year medical students at the University of Vermont who are doing clinical rotations in obstetrics and gynecology. Still finding time, she participates, whenever she is able, in Careers Day for high school students, always exhorting them to bring their dreams to fruition by staying focused on scholastic achievement.

Although displaced from Haiti at a young age, Dr. Morel's heart never left her birth-land. She jumped at the first opportunity to share her knowledge and putting her skills to the benefits of her countrywomen by teaming with a group of other medical volunteers and joining CRUDEM, which started an annual volunteers' program at L'Hôpital Sacré-Coeur in Milot, near the Citadel, in 1993. At her own expense, Dr. Morel spends one week at the hospital performing surgical interventions, hysterectomies for fibroids, as well as offering primary care with pap smears while teaching women about breast self-examinations. Whenever possible, she also shares her technical skills and experience with local physicians while learning about local pathologies from them. This has become like a pilgrimage for Dr. Morel, who goes to her birthplace every year, even when Haiti is enduring periods of instability and struggling with safety issues. In fact, she returned from her yearly trip just a few months ago after spending one week of intense work at the hospital.

Devoted and tireless, Dr. Morel has added even more projects to her long list of benevolent affiliations. She is an active member of the Gaskov-Clergé Foundation (GCF) and a member of Haitian United in Health, an organization that caters to the population of Léogâne at L'Hôpital St Croix. She is also a member of the steering committee of the AMHE-GRAHN project whose goal is to establish a Community Health Center in Génipailler, a rural section of Milot. Closer to home, she is an active participant in Families First of Palm Beach County, "a leader in providing outstanding services for families experiencing trauma, so children grow up in safe and loving homes" according to its website.

Dr. Morel's generosity takes many forms. Besides donating her time, talent, and financial resources to projects, she has also been involved in changing the lives of numerous children in Haiti. As the benefactor of five indigent children in Haiti, she has provided them with both emotional support and encouragement through frequent visits throughout the years while also paying for their education. One of these students presently attends the Agronomy School while another one is completing secondary school and about to graduate at the top of her class. The other three students are attending school and hope to make her just as proud. 🌍



# THE MARC'S

## EXPERIENCE

M A R C E . L A F A L A I S E , P S Y D



AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ON DECEMBER 23RD, 1967 AT THE AGE OF 14, I EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES. ARRIVING IN THE STATES, I ENROLLED AT ERASMUS HALL HIGH SCHOOL IN BROOKLYN. IT WAS AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL WITH STUDENTS OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS THAT INCLUDED JEWISH, ITALIAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN, HAITIAN AND JAMAICAN, HISPANICS, AS WELL AS OTHER CARIBBEAN STUDENTS. DUE TO MY LIMITED ENGLISH FLUENCY, MY GRASP OR MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AND THE DIFFERENT LEADERS WERE LIMITED. THEY PRESENTED A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE FROM AN ANGLO POINT OF VIEW. AS IMMIGRANTS, THE HAITIANS WERE MOSTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH SURVIVAL AND SELF PRESERVATION.

My mother was the first in the family to immigrate to New York City in 1965 and my father and I joined her in 1967. The process of acculturation was eventful. My father encountered the most difficulty with being uprooted and having to start over at the age of 40. In Haiti, he was a self-employed successful landowner. He owned farms, distillery, and raised cattle, and provided employment opportunity to many workers. He was economically self sufficient. When he arrived in the U.S, he was introduced to working in the factories, where he became a foreman, but he was not satisfied with his condition. My father loved education and he was very knowledgeable about history, thus he always quizzed me about Haitian politics, world history, world War 1, World War 2, and geography. He became angry and irritable especially after the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968, and later Robert Kennedy, Jr. He became disillusioned and depressed about the advancement of the blacks, human rights and returned to Haiti three years later.

DEALING WITH THE ISSUE OF RACISM AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION REQUIRES LOTS OF THOUGHTS AND SELF-EXAMINATION.

As a woman and a survivor, my mother's approach was different. She joined the parent teacher association - PTA, church groups, and befriended people across all ethnic groups. She empathized with all factions that were disenfranchised, and encouraged my integration in the society but made no compromises about maintaining my "Haitian heritage." She quoted "la Dessalinienne" verbatim

and enrolled me in cultural theatrical groups involved in putting on plays about past strong Haitian leaders i.e. Toussaint Louverture, Christophe, and Dessalines.

Being a Haitian immigrant, black, and French/Creole speaking, made my adjustment to the high school and army culture much more difficult. My first encounter with racism was in High School. The school counselor placed me in a general education professional tract rather than the academic tract. When I complained to my mother, she immediately went to the school without an appointment. To her dismay, she was told that due to my personality, my polite and submissive manner, I will do well in carpentry and manual labor. She began to cry, and shouted with her strong Haitian accent, "my son will study in the academic tract leading to advanced studies toward being a lawyer, a doctor, or an engineer. I work too hard; my son will not be a blue-collar worker". The next day, my program changed, and I was placed in the academic tract and successfully completed high school.

My life experience in the United States has been remarkably diverse, rich and complex. I witnessed many uprisings by African Americans in New York City, Newark, and in Miami and participated in protests and group activities around the issues of police brutality, racial inequity, economic deprivation, discrimination, education, housing, racism, and immigration. In the 1980's when Haitians were labeled wrongly as being a main culprit contributing to spreading to the HIV virus, many of us Haitians rose up and joined with other group in social activism, and thereafter the CDC and the American government listened to science and the label was removed. Before "Black lives Matter" there were the black panthers in the 1960's, the black Muslims, the National Action Network, Rainbow/Push Coalition and others.

Dealing with the issue of racism and social integration requires lots of

thoughts and self-examination. Our values, cultural mores, and Haitian upbringing and experience made the acculturation process difficult. Because of my own personal life and political philosophy, I have adopted approaches or views that I felt would make Haitian American life more tolerable. Although the African American experience is dissimilar to my own, but I believe joining them to combat the legacy of racism is our only way out. For us to become a strong advocacy group for our community, we must join forces with our African American brothers and sisters so we can overcome our number deficit. Language is the main factor affecting our relationship.

In the army, faced with racism and many acts of prejudice, it became clear to me that without the support of the African American soldiers, completing my term would be almost unbearable. They intervened on my behalf when I was threatened by the majority. During the Boat people era, the African American joined us and demanded better treatment for our people in Miami. Although we were competitors for the limited opportunities, and low skills jobs that were available, we were one people that were being victimized. I had therefore decided in order to fight racism in this country we need education, become knowledgeable about historical, political and cultural issues that might be pertinent in understanding and assessing the competing values, groups and forces. This is another place where the Haitian motto "In unity there is strength" is applicable and true. 🇸🇵

*Dr. Marc Etienne Lafalaise, a School and Clinical Psychologist, is married to Dr. Marie Uranie Boursiquot, a Clinical Psychologist. They both have an active mental health practice in Palm Beach County. Dr. Lafalaise may be reached at [drmpsycho@gmail.com](mailto:drmpsycho@gmail.com).*

# LET US TALK ABOUT EQUITY AND RACISM

GUYLAINE L. RICHARD, MD, MPH



The conversations around racism and equity are nowadays present everywhere in the US and even in the world. They are happening at home, in the workplace, in social circles, and even communities where silence was the norm. This is a good thing. The recent events have awakened our humanity and we demand action. For the blacks in America the journey has simply been too long, the battles too fierce, the inequalities too apparent. The dream of Dr. King needs to become a reality. Enough is enough. Where did we go wrong? How do we make it right? In this dialogue we would like to invite you to embrace this challenge as an opportunity, to move through a process beyond a simple product, to tolerate each other wherever the start may be, to commit to some steps that can get us closer to a hopeful, honest, humble and healthy humanity free of hatred and filled with love.

Equity conversations are difficult. Why are they? People of Color and Whites differ in their perceptions of race and inequities. Many are feeling angry, frustrated, blamed and/or defensive. There is a preference to address symptoms rather than the roots of social problems. People are more comfortable discussing issues of social economic status (SES), poverty or gender. Factors such as our ethnicity, gender, religion create our own personal identity. Some of these identities can be seen easily (such as race), while other are less transparent (such as education level). The discomfort sparked by conversations about racial injustice takes many forms. Some white people might be uncomfortable because they don't see themselves contributing to racial inequity. Others may have not accepted their own privilege. For some people of color, these conversations may bring negative emotions and personal experiences they would prefer not to relive. For others, they may feel impatient as white people catch up to their understanding of these issues.

Understanding racism requires for us to recognize the many ways it manifests itself: individual, interpersonal, cultural, institutional, and structural where differential consequences are created for different racial and ethnic groups. Racism is a system with its structures, policies, practices, and norms. We may also be familiar with terms such as white privilege, white supremacy, systems of oppression. They all have in common an element of domination, a quest for power that goes against what could help us better co-exist and get along: equity and justice.

Equality is sameness. Equity is fairness. We all belong to a group. We all have unconscious bias, but we each have a responsibility to prevent its unintended consequences. Biases don't make us bad; they make us human. Becoming aware of our biases is the first step to gain understanding of how they can affect our actions. Some of our biases are implicit meaning that they may affect our understanding, actions and decisions in an unconscious manner. This is why it is important for us to move to conscious awareness so we can act instead of react.

Learning how to create a few positive habits can help us manage bias and lessen its impact. Here is an invitation to explore what we call the "Five A's of individual growth" that could move us from awareness to action. Whether we are the perpetrator or the recipient of the aggression this less than a minute process could assist in taking full responsibility for an action instead of a reaction for which we may not have full control.

The first A stands for Awareness: "I have a sense that something is going on"

The second A stands for Acknowledgment: "I know that something is going on". This step offers the opportunity to bring thing closer to consciousness.

The third A is Acceptance: "I know something is happening and I don't want to deny it". This doesn't mean that I accept an aggression, the wrong I am doing, I am in a place of full consciousness.

The fourth A is Appreciation: "Am I that person? Am I better than that?". Now I am in a place where I can put a value on the person I am.

The fifth and final A is Action: "Now, let me own what I do". Getting from awareness to this point assist me in doing what I really want to be in control of. This is the power of acting right (or wrong) but I am not reacting but taking a step when I am ready to take responsibility for what I do and also the consequences (good or bad).

The following story provides you with an illustration of this process. The first flight to Washington on a Monday morning is usually a busy one. Being upgraded to first class was a real treat and I felt lucky because the seats on that section of the plane are usually occupied by white men on their way to their prominent functions in DC. When called to join our respective group, I lined up with Group 1. The flight monitor at that point looked at me and loudly stated: "I said group 1". Immediately I became **AWARE** that something wrong was happening. I **ACKNOWLEDGED** that this was directed toward me, bringing her words to consciousness. I was not accepting her wrongdoing but had to be honest and **ACCEPT** the fact that I knew that I was being discriminated against. I needed to immediately **APPRECIATE** myself as a smart, confident black woman deserving of the spot I had obtained. I had a ticket, I was going to seat in the first class cabin because I deserved it. Therefore, although angry about her behavior I did not want to react and meet her expectation to behave as a mad black woman. I was determined to go high and make her feel low. I took the **ACTION** that was most appropriate for me to get all I wanted as a smart black woman. I shouted as loud as I could "Yes, and I know how to count" and smiled. This response disorganized her and she started blaming her behavior on not having coffee yet and I met her embarrassment with a smile and an "I got you" and proudly walked-in and took my comfortable seat with all the "entitled" passengers.

Moving from awareness to action allows us to be, instead of not be. For example, when we say: "I am not a racist"; we are defining a state of mind or a status. To the contrary when we say: "I am anti-racist" this implies actions we are willing and able to take to own our identity. We must own who we are. What does it mean to be an anti-racist? What does an ally do? How can we move our humanity from a culture of hatred to one of healing? Take a little moment and reflect on those questions and come up with the answers that only each of us can find. The answers to these questions will start paving the path we are willing, ready and committed to take to be what we want to be. This power is inside of us. This is true power. It is not given but created and we have what it takes to get there.

Remember the conversations around equity and racism are not just uncomfortable, they require vulnerability. Being vulnerable is a strength, not a weakness. Discomfort can be enormously productive, though, especially when we move outside of our life experiences and validate what others see and have experienced. This is the way we will move freely from where we are to where we ought to be as human beings bound to live on this planet together. 🌍



IN MEMORY OF

# HENRY I OF HAÏTI



*The Citadel Laferrière, was built by King Henry I, between 1805-1820. The fortress sits atop the mountain Bonnet à L'Évêque, approximately 27 kil. (17 mi) south of the city of Cap-Haïtien.*

MY TASK, TODAY, IS DIFFERENT:

I AM HERE TO REMEMBER KING HENRY

AND TO EXHUME HIS GOOD DEEDS!



King Henry I photo credit: ©Duchess of Malfi, © CC-BY-SA 4.0. © Wikimedia Commons. Source: Wikipedia.org

King Henry the first is a most maligned ancestor whose legacy deserves more scrutiny and attention than the nearly exclusive focus on his tyrannical rule. As a man with lofty and admirable aspirations, he was known to value excellence, intelligence, education, honesty, hard work, creativity, self-sufficiency, morality, prestige and to contemplate a vision of a wealthy, self-sufficient and prosperous Haiti. With his death in 1820, the goal of a dignified and thriving Haiti in the court of nations was thwarted and converted into a dream searching for a sliver of hope in a people who refuses to allow despair to take hold of their souls. Instead of a blooming and prosperous nation, we can hardly feed ourselves and, moreover, have surrendered to lawlessness to the point that it has become fashionable to use the idiotic expression "legal bandits" to describe our so called leaders. Perhaps a look back in time may help us find and stabilize our bearing again.



Often, King Henry was heard saying “there is so much to do and so little time in which to do it.” He knew Haiti was behind and had to catch up. She needed the arms of all of her children, and when there was a need, he led by example. He was often seen working like any other laborer on the construction of the Citadel and was the first one to burn his mansion when Napoleon’s fleet threatened to disembark and take over Cape Haitian. Not only did he destroy his house, he also defiantly refused to surrender threatening to fight the French invaders on the ashes of the city, which he did.

A capable and honest administrator, he died leaving a full treasury that was soon dilapidated by the myopic leaders that followed him. Perhaps, sharing an anecdote or two about King Henry that I heard while growing up would best exemplify the type of man and ruler that he was or perceived to be.

Wanting to hire a master tailor for his court, he came up with a test. All men interested in the position were asked to meet his majesty. Of those, three competitors were selected to have an audience with him. During the meeting, he gave each man the same amount of material to make a suit, but the quantity of the material was much less than that expected to make a suit for a grown man or even an infant.

The first tailor told the king that the material was not enough and, in his opinion, could not be done. The king thanked him for his opinion.

The second one decided that it was too risky to tell the king his true thoughts. He bought extra material and made a suit big enough to fit an average size man. When he took it to the king, confident that he would be pleased, the king was instead furious. He asked him why he got the extra material and questioned his competence. The tailor explained that thinking the king was testing his loyalty and diligence, he decided to buy the extra material. The king, after thanking him for his good intentions, dismissed him for his lack of creativity and professionalism.

The third tailor after much hand wriggling and sleepless nights, knowing the king was clever, wondered why he would give so little material for a suit. He knew that the king was testing him but could not fathom what he was looking for. So, he decided to do what he can with what he was given. So, he made a suit that would fit a doll the size of a man’s hand. With great trepidation, he went to show his work to

the king. Overjoyed and with great excitement, the king called his entourage to come and meet a real tailor, whom he congratulated for his common sense, creativity, honesty and courage, and offered him the job of his majesty tailor. Just one more, we need to hear them so we can generate new memes, new mental perceptions of our heroes and of ourselves.

King Henry was feared and respected more than he was loved. He dealt with violations swiftly and severely. One night, the king caught General Guerrier, one of most capable lieutenants who was tired from overwork, asleep on the job during a lull in the workflow. Upon seeing the general, the king called out his name and raised his cane to hit him. Guerrier who by then had already lost one of his arm fighting for Christophe, grabbed his gun with the hand he had left and told Christophe that if he hit him, he would kill him no matter what happened to him afterwards. To everybody’s surprise, the king growled and left him alone with a warning “don’t let it happen again.”

According to historian Jean Julien, king Henry ran an effective government that produced wealth throughout the kingdom. At his death, millions that were subsequently squandered and never accounted for, were found in the kingdom’s treasury and he left many productive and profitable farm plantations and businesses, administrative buildings, and luxurious palaces that were ransacked, looted and left to decay. Contrary to most of the other governments that followed, he believed in an educated citizenry, undertaking an alphabetization project that educated 30% of his subjects. What the children learned during the day they taught their parents at night. In a period of about eight years, from 1812 to 1820, nearly two thirds of the kingdom’s population of about 240,000 learned to read and write.

According to Hubert Cole, who wrote one of the most comprehensive and credible biography of Christophe, the people of the former kingdom suffered buyer’s remorse within a few years after his death. Comparing their life situation under President Jean-Pierre Boyer to their living condition under King Henry’s rule, they realized that the rebellion destroyed something of value. Recognizing their loss and realizing they made a mistake in overthrowing his government, they plaintively referred to the fall of the king and the destruction of his accomplishments, really their achievements, as “le temps de

notre malheur” or “the time of our misfortune.”

While we do not want to return to the times of King Henry, or the excesses of absolute rule, we need to look higher and aim for more than merely surviving as a people, as we have been doing since his death. He is gone but he has left us the key to our true selves in the ideals and monuments he left behind. These monuments are symbols of our collective resoluteness and capacity for collective self-actualization, a reminder of what we can do and what we should aim for.

Let us use the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his death to once again remind ourselves that we are of the same stock as the men, women and children who broke the back

THE EVIL THAT MEN DO LIVES

AFTER THEM; THE GOOD IS OFT

INTERRED WITH THEIR BONES.

- Robert Shakespeare

of involuntary servitude, challenged the engine of the slave economy and provided the only sanctuary against enslavement in the 18th and 19th century. We need to elevate our sight and dream high and big once more, so we can mold our imagination into nation building goals. We took our eyes off of the prize the first time when we murdered the emperor Jean-Jacques Dessalines and took it off a second time when we “killed” King Henry but let us use this sorrowful anniversary to refocus on the work he started. 🇧🇪

*Jean-Claude Dutès, PhD  
Retired Clinical Neuropsychologist  
Adjunct Clinical Professor, College of Osteopathic  
Medicine Michigan State University*

The information below was passed along to L'OUVERTURE by members of our community who wanted to make the Haitian community aware of free available resources for Palm Beach County residents. On behalf of the Haitian community of Palm Beach county, L'OUVERTURE presents a heartfelt thank you to Ms. Jocelyne Cameau, Dr. Marc Lafalaise and Ms. Anne Pierre, who provided the information listed below. You can contact these places to learn about where and when food will be distributed, how to get masks, apply for financial relief, find virtual camps for children, locate COVID-19 testing sites, and seek employment.

## FOOD RESOURCES

**EAT BETTER LIVE BETTER, INC.**  
4925 Park Ridge Blvd.  
www.EBLB.org  
Boynton Beach FL 33426  
(561) 344-1022

**FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA INC**  
A 501 C-3 Organization  
301 W. Atlantic Ave. Suite 06  
(561) 331-5441  
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33444

Main warehouse for  
**FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA INC**  
2501 SW 32nd Terrace  
Pembroke Park, FL 33023  
(954) 518-1818

## MEALS ON WHEELS SOUTH FLORIDA

In partnership with the Area Agency on Aging and Elder Affairs Provide & deliver healthy meals & nutrition education

## CELL PHONES

**FREE GOVERNMENT CELL PHONES**  
Monthly services for low income Americans on Medicaid or Food stamps. Also, if you were financially affected by COVID-19 and lost your job, you may be eligible by submitting proof of income eligibility or a copy of your unemployment Benefit Statement.  
Safelink wireless: 800-723-3546  
Other plans who may offer free cell phones: Access Wireless 800-464-6010, Assurance Wireless 888-321-5880

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

**TESTING SITES**  
<http://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus/Pages/testing-sites.aspx>

**COVID-19 UPDATE (Corona Virus):**  
Florida Department of Health  
850-245-4444  
COVID-19@flhealth.gov  
24/7 phone # 1-866-779-6121  
Palm Beach County Emergency Information  
Line: (561) 712-6400

## FAMILY LEISURE AND RECREATION

Plan and organize a safe family event.  
Check Taptap Krik?Krik at: <https://www.facebook.com/MiamiBookFair/videos/>

## FREE MASKS\*

The Florida Department of Health has acquired 15 million reusable cloth face coverings and is making them available to local nonprofits and agencies to share in the community. If your Palm Beach County organization would like to make a request for a bulk order of masks for community outreach, please contact DOH-Palm Beach Warehouse Manager Roger Vick at (561) 629-0043 to place an order and arrange for pick up. Larger orders will be vetted, as necessary.

**\*FOOD FOR THOUGHT** By Jocelyn Cameau: Several people are using the internet to mislead the public, insisting that masks interfere with breathing and are harmful but have not yet given ONE example to support their self-created dubious theory. Think about this for a minute, after so many years many years of mask use in the clinical/medical/surgical settings, if that were true the licensed/certified/ trained healthcare professionals, as well as knowledgeable scientists, would have argued against, and stopped, its use.

## HOUSING AND UTILITIES

**PBS COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT:**  
For residents of PBC who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through loss of income, reduction in hours, or unemployment. Applications must be submitted through CSD's online portal.

- <https://secure.co.palm-beach.fl.us/CSDServiceEligibility/Account/Login.aspx>
- Housing, Utilities Assistance
- Phone number for rent: (561) 904-7900
- Phone number for utilities: (561) 355-4792

## IMMIGRATION

**TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)**  
Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach  
9995 N. Military Trail  
Palm Beach FL 33410

## JOBS

**UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE:**  
Career Source of Palm Beach  
Helps you to find a job and provide training opportunity  
West Palm Beach: (561) 340-1060  
Belle Glade: (561) 829-2040

**FLORIDA JOBS REEMPLOYMENT:**  
<http://www.floridajobs.org/>

## MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING FOR PROBLEMS RELATED TO COVID-19

In these difficult times, we are all learning new strategies for negotiating unwanted and unexpected changes. Our stress level is likely higher than usual. Going through this process can be confusing, bewildering, exasperating and frustrating, putting even the hardest and most robust of us at greater risk for increased anxiety, and even depression. That is why L'OUVERTURE wanted to share this resource with you, just in case you know or hear of someone who could use some psychological support.

Click on or type the link below in your browser to access the COVID-19 crisis site. Mental health counseling is provided free of charge in complete confidentiality via telephone by Professional Counselors who are paid by the United States government. Things change and, with assistance, you can speed up the change process.

The link is like an outstretched hand that L'OUVERTURE is extending to you, take advantage of it to pull yourself out of a difficult situation. No matter how bleak things look now in your life, keep in mind that your feelings, like water flowing in a river, never stays still.

The brain and the mind do and will adjust, and at some point, in the future. When you look back at this time, this virus and associated events would loom much smaller in your view, just like a sailing ship becomes a speck in the horizon, as it drifts away from the shore.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>

## SCHOOLS/DAYCARE\*

**PALM BEACH** - The School Superintendent Donald Fennoy, & The School Board Chairman Frank Barbrieri agreed to DISTANCE LEARNING & prioritized safety in the education of students, the staff, and the community.

**BROWARD** - The School Superintendent, Robert Runcie opted for virtual class only.

**MIAMI DADE** - School Superintendent, Alberto Carvalho said schools will not open until the County moves to Phase 2 reopening. They are currently at Phase 1.

\* For updated information regarding school/ day care, please monitor the news Daily because of the continuing rise in COVID-19 and reconsideration of appropriate directives.

## SUMMER CAMP -13 FREE VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMPS YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE

<https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/outdoor/free-virtual-summer-camps-2020/>

Free and open to the public, families and summer camps can schedule their time in advance so children in grades K-8 can enjoy live interactive programming, pre-recorded sessions and hands-on learning activities provided by local content experts. Activities include art, music, S.T.E.M. and wellness/fitness.

To get connected: <https://www.primetimepb.org/virtual-summer/>



L'Ouverture Cultural Society Officers,  
from left to right: Mr. Richard, Dr. Richard, Dr. Morel,  
Dr. Dutès, Mr. Moise, Ms. Comeau and Ms. Clerge-Joseph

# MEMBERSHIP

O P P O R T U N I T I E S

**YES, I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF L'OUVERTURE CULTURAL SOCIETY (LCS)**

BECOME A MEMBER OF L'OUVERTURE CULTURAL SOCIETY (LCS),  
AND HELP SUPPORT THE MANY IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, WE OFFER THAT EDUCATE,  
INSPIRE AND GROW OUR ORGANIZATION. JOIN US AS WE SEEK TO PROMOTE HAITIAN CULTURE,  
HISTORY AND CUSTOMS AS WELL AS PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NETWORKING,  
THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

**TO JOIN LCS AS A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
WWW.LOUVERTURECS.ORG AND CLICK ON 'JOIN SECTION'**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL US  
INFO@LOUVERTURECS.ORG**

**FOLLOW US ON**

FACEBOOK.COM/LOUVERTURECS.ORG | TWITTER.COM/CULTURALALLCS | INSTAGRAM.COM/LOUVERTURECS  
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/LOUVERTURECS-LCS-4A11821B4



4300 S. JOG ROAD, SUITE # 541943, GREENACRES, FL 33454

WWW.LOUVERTURECS.ORG

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING

# EVENTS

## SAVE-THE-DATE

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	EVENTS
10/19/2020	Virtual / On ZOOM	12:30 PM	<b>Memorial Presentation in Honor of the 200th Anniversary of King Henry Christophe</b> - Virtual ZOOM EVENT; Details TBA; No cost for LCS members. Contact us at: <a href="mailto:info@Louverturecs.org">info@Louverturecs.org</a>
11/18/2020	Virtual / On ZOOM	7:00 PM	<b>The Battle of Vertieres (in Haitian Creole Batay Vètyè)</b> was the last major battle of the Haitian Revolution, and the final part of the Haitian Revolution under Jean Jacques Dessalines. It was fought on 18 November 1803 between Haitian indigenous army, and Napoleon's French expeditionary forces, who wanted to re-introduce slavery in Saint Domingue and regain control of island of Hispaniola. Details TBA. No cost for LCS members. Contact us at: <a href="mailto:info@Louverturecs.org">info@Louverturecs.org</a>
01/01/2021	To Be Decided	12:30 PM	<b>Haitian Independence Day "Soup Joumou"</b> . Please join us for the celebration of Haitian Independence day as we reflect and gather together safely to drink "Soup Joumou" together as LCS family. Location TBD. More information will be provided by mid-November. Please go to our website: <a href="http://www.Louverturecs.org">www.Louverturecs.org</a> in our "Events Section" for updated information about this event. No cost for LCS members. Reservations are appreciated by emailing : <a href="mailto:info@Louverturecs.org">info@Louverturecs.org</a>

FOR ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.LOUVERTURECS.ORG](http://WWW.LOUVERTURECS.ORG)

OR EMAIL US

[INFO@LOUVERTURECS.ORG](mailto:INFO@LOUVERTURECS.ORG)

