

### President's Message

**G**reetings to all and welcome to our new members who have joined to help the cause, the revitalization and the redevelopment of the NCC. Much has taken place in the past few months and it is my pleasure to update you on these very important steps. We are optimistic as we continue to work with the City of Montreal while lobbying for and engaging the attention, of the Federal and Provincial Governments. Of course, like anything else, there have been lows, as well as the highs, but for the most part, we have stayed the course, strong and determined, our motto "focus on the goal and not the struggle." One very positive note since last year's AGM is the addition of new faces on the Board of Directors; they have added an abundance of insight, knowledge and experience. I take this opportunity to express my enthusiasm in having them onboard and to welcome them." They are as follows: Dr. Dorothy Wills, Mr. David Clarke,

Mrs. Doreen Ryce, Ms. Michelle-Lee White, Ms. Sharon Nelson, Mrs. Janis Riven and Ms. Marla Noel.

This issue provides an update on community news and events as well as on the redevelopment of the NCC. Currently, we are gearing up for a fund-raising campaign, "Buy Bricks or Windows," to encourage community involvement in realizing our goal.

– *Shirley Gyles, President*

### Le mot de la présidente

**M**es chaleureuses salutations à notre lectorat et bienvenue aux nouveaux membres qui se sont joints à nous afin d'avancer la revitalisation et le réaménagement du NCC. Ces derniers mois ont été féconds en événements, et j'ai grand plaisir de vous mettre au courant de ces récentes étapes critiques. Nous demeurons optimistes, car nous continuons à travailler avec la Ville de Montréal tout en sollicitant et en engageant l'attention des gouvernements fédéral et provincial. Comme en toute chose, il y a eu des hauts et des bas. Or à la longue, nous avons poursuivi notre chemin, forts et déterminés, tenant à notre devise « focalisons sur le but et non sur la lutte ». Une autre bonne nouvelle à noter depuis notre dernière AGM : l'arrivée de nouveaux visages au conseil d'administration. Ce sont des individus qui amènent des richesses de sagesse, de connaissances et d'expérience. Je suis très reconnaissante de leur présence parmi nous. Il s'agit des personnes suivantes : Dr Dorothy Wills, Mme Doreen Ryce, M. David Clarke, Mme Michelle-Lee White, Mme Sharon Nelson, Mme Janis Riven et Mme Marla Noel.

Dans ce numéro, vous trouverez les toutes dernières nouvelles ainsi qu'un sommaire des événements relatifs à la renaissance du NCC. Nous lançons en ce moment une campagne de financement sous le thème « Fenêtres et briques à vendre » afin de faire participer toute la communauté à l'atteinte de notre objectif. – *Shirley Gyles, présidente*

### NCC BOARD MEMBERS



**David Clarke**



**Lawrence Fraser**



**Sharin Freeman**



**Chad Gyles**



**Shirley Gyles**



**Sharon Nelson**



**Marla Noel**



**Janis Riven**



**Doreen Ryce**



**Michelle-Lee White**



**Dorothy Wills**

### NCC ADVISORY BOARD

**Mr. Robert Gyles, Mrs. Adrienne Jackson, Dr. Oliver Jones, Mr. Emile Leacock, Ms. Carolyn Singman, Dr. Beatrice Ofosuah, Me. Kathleen Thoby, Mrs. Helene Wavroch**

## NCC - Where We Are Now

**Redevelopment News** - We are a very determined group as we go into our sixth year of working and lobbying to have our important and much needed Centre reopened; it will be a year in September that we submitted our plans to the PIQN program with the Provincial Government. In February of this year, we were told that our submission could not be accepted because we had subsidised housing coupled with the idea of a documentation/library/exhibition hall. We have since revised and resubmitted the plans without the housing. This was done with the help of Architect, Weber Laurent and Urban Planner, Elisabeth Rivest (*formerly of Convercité*). With the new plan, we will have an Eco-Museum. The housing portion will be rented out to groups and organizations who share our vision. One of the things that we are constantly being asked about is, "What and how has the community contributed as a whole?" Well, we have property and a building valued at approximately one million dollars and we have made contribution of thousands of volunteer hours. In 2007, we were given a grant of 2.5 million dollars from the City of Montreal, .5 of which we already have in our account, to be spent only on the actual Project. Receipt of the balance of the 2.5 million is contingent on our receiving the rest of the monies needed to complete the Project, from both the Federal and Provincial

Governments. We are looking at 2.5 million apiece from each of them.

**Letters of Support** - In the last three months, we have received a number of 'letters of support' from various community organizations and individuals and have put them together into a book. We have been sending out these books to the various government bodies. In our next newsletter, we will make public the list of supporters.

**Bricks and Windows** - We have recently started a fund-raising campaign to sell windows and bricks to help ourselves and solicit community involvement - *S. Gyles*

## NCC - Rapport d'étape

**Projet de revitalisation** – Nous sommes un groupe engagé rendu à notre sixième année d'efforts et de représentations auprès de diverses instances dans le but de restaurer et de rouvrir un bâtiment aussi important que nécessaire. Un an s'est écoulé depuis que nous avons soumis nos plans au programme PIQN du gouvernement du Québec. En février dernier on nous a répondu que notre requête était irrecevable parce qu'elle comprenait un volet visant des logements subventionnés jumelé avec notre projet initial d'une salle d'exposition et de documentation ainsi qu'une bibliothèque. Nous avons donc revu ces plans pour ensuite les soumettre de nouveau sans le volet logement. Ces efforts ont bénéficié des conseils savants de l'architecte Weber Laurent et d'Elisabeth Rivest (*anciennement de Convercité*). Outre les espaces ci-dessus mentionnés, le nouveau plan comprend un éco-musée. Les locaux qui auraient été aménagés en logements seront désormais des espaces loués à des groupes et organismes qui partagent notre vision.

**Lettres et autre soutien** – Au cours des trois derniers mois nous avons sollicité et reçu bon nombre de lettres de soutien provenant d'organismes et de particuliers de la communauté. Ces lettres ont été colligées dans un classeur dont des exemplaires ont été transmis aux instances gouvernementales concernées. Dans notre prochain bulletin, nous publierons la liste de ceux et celles qui nous ont ainsi appuyés. Ces temps-ci, on nous demande souvent en quoi l'ensemble de la communauté contribue au projet du NCC. Notre réponse : nous détenons une propriété et un bâtiment d'une valeur d'environ un million de dollars, et nous y avons consacré des milliers d'heures à titre bénévole. En 2007 la Ville de Montréal nous a accordé une subvention de 2,5 millions de dollars, dont 500 000 \$ ont déjà été versés au compte du NCC pour défrayer des dépenses directement reliées au projet. Le versement du solde de cette subvention est conditionnel à l'allocation par les gouvernements fédéral et provincial des fonds nécessaires pour compléter le financement du projet. Nous sollicitons un montant de 2,5 millions de dollars de chacun de ces deux paliers.

**Fenêtres et briques** – Nous avons récemment lancé une campagne de financement un peu insolite : la vente de fenêtres et de briques qui feront partie de l'immeuble rénové du NCC. Cette initiative se veut un moyen privilégié de faire participer la communauté au rétablissement d'un élément important de notre patrimoine. - *S. Gyles*



Victor Langdon, Edward Hussey, Mervin Dash



Doreen Ryce, Shirley and Arnold Smith

## Growing Up in Montreal

For over two years now, a group of Montrealers, who were either born in Montreal or who grew up here, meet on the last Friday of every month for an afternoon lunch, usually in NDG or downtown Montreal. The idea started by **Ralph Whims**, initially targeted the "guys" but it soon evolved when **Victor Landgon** suggested that "les girls" should also be included. The premise was that old friends and acquaintances only got together when another had passed on. The funeral parlour was becoming the popular meeting place for people who had not seen one another for long periods of time. Because a number of people still live in Montreal, but don't come in contact often, this idea seemed like a logical way to come together especially during, the cold, oftentimes long dismal winter. What started out as six or seven has grown close to thirty people.

Victor usually chooses interesting restaurants that not many people seem familiar with, one month it may be Italian and yet another it might be Persian or Thai. Aside from the wonderful dishes, everyone gets a chance to meet, reminisce and share old stories about what it was like growing up in Montreal, back when.

The group is planning a big party to be held sometime after Thanksgiving of this year. - *S. Gyles*



Ms. Donna Brazile



Ms. Brazile and Dr. Malinda Smith

### Women and Leadership in the Age of Obama

This past June, CNN's, **Ms. Donna Brazile** gave a lecture entitled, "Women and Leadership in the Age of Obama," the theme: 'the political landscape in the United States and the powerful role that women are playing in shaping the country.' This was part of Concordia's, Congress 2010 (Humanities Social Sciences Department), lecture series. The event was organized by the Federation's Equity Issues Portfolio and hosted by **Dr. Malinda Smith**, from the University of Alberta. Ms. Brazile's discourse was followed by a question and answer period.

Ms. Brazile is an author, educator, a 30-year veteran of politics and a tenacious social activist was the first African-American to direct a presidential campaign. An adjunct professor at Georgetown University, she is also a syndicated

and political commentator for CNN, ABC and National Public Radio. As the Democratic Vice Chair of Voter Registration and Participation, at the National Committee (DNC) and the former chair of the DNC's Voting Rights Institute, Brazile remains at the heart of American national politics, allowing her to bring a unique and privileged analysis to bear on Obama's administration and this moment in political history.

Some of the attendees present to hear Ms. Brazile were: former Federal Minister, **Honourable Jean Augustine**, **Dr. Dolores Sandoval** and members of Union Church, **Erene Anthony** and **Kathy West** along with members of the **Coloured Women's Club**, **Marie Berryman**, who is an Ombudsman at Concordia, **Merley Cumberbatch**, **Babsy Simmons** and of course, the clubs' President, **Shirley Gyles**. Also present were **Mr. Emile Leacock**, long-time CWC supporter, **Ms. Sheila Springer**, **Mrs. Brenda Paris** and our board member, **Ms. Sharon Nelson**. - *S. Gyles*

possesses the highest GPA within their respective district. The International Scholar of the Year is the Fraternity's top scholar and this award recognizes an applicant, not only for his academic excellence, but also for his overall involvement in the Fraternity, along with his contributions to the advancement of the organization.



MacAndrew Clarke and Fraternity Brothers

### MacAndrew Clarke You Did Us Proud

On Tuesday July 27, 2010 the **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity** witnessed the first winner ever, from the 13th (International) District, for the Scholar of the Year Award. Bro. MacAndrew Clarke, a native Montrealer, won the highest scholarship honour for an under-graduate, garnering over \$21,000 in scholarship monies for his achievement. The awards that were won were: District Scholar, Founder's Memorial Scholarship, and International Scholar. The Founder's Memorial Scholarship was created to commemorate the founding of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc by Brothers Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, Frank Coleman, and Ernest E. Just, and was established to recognize the scholastic achievements of under-graduate and graduate Brothers. District Scholar is awarded to an undergraduate and graduate brother who

Brother MacAndrew Clarke is a full-time student studying in the Honours Program, for a Bachelor in Political Science, at Carleton University in Ottawa. He has been a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity since November 20, 2009 and is currently the Keeper of Records and the Seal, for the Alpha Delta Xi Chapter which is the undergraduate chapter of the fraternity in Ottawa.

Alpha Delta Xi is also the first undergraduate chapter established in Canada from a historically Black fraternity. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is also one of four historically Black fraternities which are recognized worldwide. This organization has had an impact on the Montreal community since 1923, when Sigma Chapter was located in Westmount. Members such as Rev. Dr. Charles H Este, and Dr. Charles R. Drew were members of this illustrious organization. - *M. Clarke*



Betty Makoni



Kathy West, Hepta Delandes, Rev. Ofori, Stanley Aleong Betty Makoni, Shirley Gyles, Erene Anthony and students

### CNN Hero of the Year, Award Nominee, at Union

On Tuesday, June first of this year **Rev. Emmanuel Ofori** welcomed **Betty Makoni** to Union United Church. Makoni's visit was made possible through the efforts of **Hepta Delandes** and her students from the Pearson Adult and Career Centre, in Ville LaSalle.

An activist and a teacher, Makoni got tired of hearing about the relentless sexual abuse of young girls and decided to do something about it. She started the **Girl Child Network** in Zimbabwe. Many of the girls were victimized because of a belief that sex with a virgin cures AIDS. The network provides a safe place, healing and support for young girls surviving sexual assault. As a result of her efforts, Betty has been targeted by security forces in Zimbabwe and forced to flee the country for her safety.

After the presentation of a documentary film that tells the story of Betty and the girls that she helps, Ms. Makoni spoke to a small audience. Later, Rev. Ofori presented her with a donation that was collected from those in attendance. Ms. Makoni was nominated as one of **CNN's Hero of the Year 2009**. - *S. Gyles*

**BUY A BRICK OR A WINDOW - FUNDRAISER**

Fundraising is an essential element for all non-profit organizations. The NCC Fundraising Committee serves at the pleasure of the Board to identify, develop and manage fundraising opportunities. Our latest fundraising effort for the redevelopment of the NCC is to sell windows and bricks. As a preview: large windows are \$5,000 and small windows are \$2,500., bricks are 5 for \$20. or 1 for \$5.00. Should you purchase a window, your name or that of a loved one will be inscribed on a plaque to be located underneath the designated window for a period of 25 years. If you purchase bricks, your name will be listed alphabetically on the **Contributors Honour Roll** in our new building. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations in excess of \$20.00.

Purchase forms will soon be available online and they also can be obtained from board members. Drawing on both our professional and personal strengths, we hope to build on this success and extend heartfelt thanks to our many supporters. We are always looking for committed volunteers. If you are interested in helping this very important cause, please contact Dorothy Wills at 514-352-0307.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
JOEL ANTHONY**

For those of you who might have been out of town or just don't follow basketball, on July 16, of this year **Joel Anthony**, the 6' 9", 245 lb, Montrealer, son of **Erene Anthony** re-signed with the Miami Heat. Anthony, a center had originally signed with the Heat as a free agent on July 3, 2007, then re-signed with the club on July 20, 2009. His five-year contract for an estimated \$18 million dollars gives him the prospects of becoming a starter.

Bravo, Joel and kudos to you and your mom.



Joel Anthony

**CWC Tribute to  
Dr. Dorothy Wills**

**The Coloured Women's Club** will be hosting a Dinner-Gala, honouring trailblazer and community leader, Dr. Dorothy Wills, retired Dean of the Faculty of Applied Technologies at Vanier College and the first Black Dean at the CEGEP level in Quebec and also the first Black Dean at a Community College in Canada.

This will be an opportunity for the community to express heartfelt gratitude and admiration for all that Dr. Wills has done for our community by helping and supporting our children and the country at large. The event will take place on Saturday, October 2nd, at the Omni Hotel, 1050 Sherbrooke St. W. Cocktails are at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$100. All proceeds will go to the CWC Scholarship Fund.

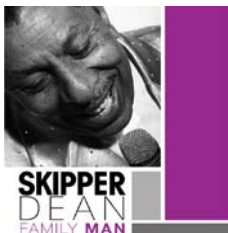
Tickets and information:  
450-672-7081, 514-488-3284,  
514-747-7272 or/ou  
sagyles@sympatico.ca

**ATTENTION, ATTENTION, ATTENTION**

On Sunday September 26, we will hold the Annual General Meeting for the NCC/Charles H. Este Cultural Centre. We invite one and all this event to hear about the progress that has been made, to introduce the members of the Board, and to get a chance to re-connect with one another.

In an effort to document the years of rich history at the NCC, we will be scanning photos after the AGM. This way, we can return them immediately. We therefore encourage you to bring along your old photos so that we can capture a bit of our past. Someone will be on hand to document the caption of each photo. With your permission, these photos will be used to promote the NCC/Charles H. Este Cultural Centre on our website, on newsletters, and posted throughout the building, just to name a few areas in which they can be used.

In the next couple of weeks, Doreen Ryce and our President, Shirley Gyles, will be contacting members to remind them to bring their photos to the AGM. – S. Nelson



**Family Man**

A soulful feeling of a live R&B concert. Features eight original tunes incorporating Jazz, Hip-hop, Gospel and Reggae all the while maintaining that 'good old down-home soul.' Available at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com)

**Getting Together**

Getting together with old friends and acquaintances can be a blast. How do I know? Well I am doing it with twenty-five and some-times thirty other people and we are still looking for more to join. We all have a great time talking about old times and our dance hall days, sneaking into clubs and lots of other things. Believe me we have a real good time and some good laughs. Why don't you come and join us? We meet on the last Friday of every month and go to different restaurants and enjoy. One would be surprised to see who you meet up with, people you haven't seen in many, many years. All are welcome. Give me a call, Doreen Ryce, 514-561-7600 and I will hook you up. You wouldn't want to miss our party in mid-October. See you soon. - Doreen Ryce

**NCC AGM**

Sunday, September 26, 2010  
Little Burgundy  
Sports Centre  
1825 Notre Dame St. W.  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.



**ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE  
ANNUELLE**  
dimanche, le 26  
septembre  
Centre sportif Petite-  
Bourgogne  
1825, rue Notre-Dame O.  
De 15h à 17h

**SUBSCRIPTION  
INFORMATION**

To make donations and/or submit community-related articles:  
NCC/Charles H. Este  
Cultural Centre  
855 Georges Vanier, #01  
Montreal, QC H3J 2B5  
450-672-7081  
514-747-7271  
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S. Gyles

Little Burgundy Festival, Oscar Peterson Park, Saturday, September 11, 11 a.m. - 8p.m.  
Festival de la Petite-Bourgogne au Parc Oscar Peterson, le 11 septembre de 11h à 20h

