

SECOND SATURDAY NET

Volume 1, Issue 4

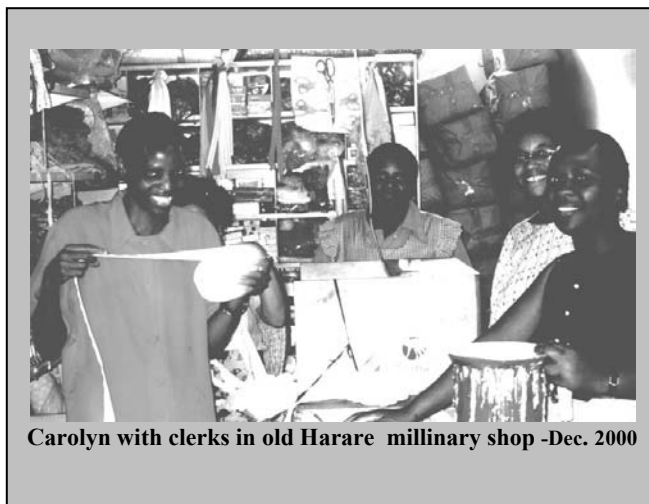
August 2001

Project Vecinos Grant



Nubra Floyd at the Smithsonian Africa Museum – April 2001

Dear Network Members:
Last June we received a \$5,000 Project Vecinos Grant, from the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz, and with the help of that funding, were able to conduct a program of activities aimed at promoting African cultural awareness in our local community. What's more, we managed to build on that effort with our Zimbabwe Teach-In Sweatshirt Drive raising money for our first annual Nation's Capitol Roadtrip! That pilot travel program was aimed at promoting appreciation for



Carolyn with clerks in old Harare millinery shop -Dec. 2000

Letters From Zimbabwe

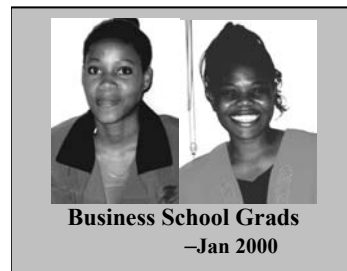
Carolyn Martin-Shaw

I came to Zimbabwe with the idea that I would like to study femininity, quite a different project from my usual feminism. I wanted to know what is the Zimbabwean ideal woman, what is the role of beauty in women's lives, and how does tenderness figure into their interactions with others.

I can't say that I have answered these questions. But I have talked with quite a few women about what it means to be a woman, the advantages and the problems, who their ideal is, and how they live their daily lives. One group that I talked to were secretaries.

I wanted to talk to secretaries because this is a new profession for African women. They started going into it around 1975, when there was a great exodus of whites from the country. Also, the position of secretary combines some "domestic" and some professional roles. I wanted to see how women negotiated the two.

In asking secretaries who their ideal woman was or who inspired them, I heard about their mothers, women executives, and women in church--mostly about strong women, who could bear burdens and keep going. Most of them felt that being able to bear children was what was good about being a woman. Some felt that women had more freedom of expression than men and that women could move about in different circles better than men. ❖



**Business School Grads
–Jan 2000**



Myron Briggs, Ariel Levi, Latrice Jones, Kim Coleman, Ashley Davis Below: Leo Grandison and Jordan Reed after touring C-SPAN – April 2001

Black heritage experience and provided the participants an opportunity for learning more about the American political process. A five member delegation of Santa Cruz area high school and college students was accompanied by UCSC alum Kim Coleman and myself on a four day tour of Washington, DC and hosted by UCSC alum Myron Briggs and SCHS grads Koren Clark and Gabriel Craft—A great community and campus collaboration! ❖



Amasha Lyons & Jordan Reed at the Library of Congress Africa Collection – April 2001

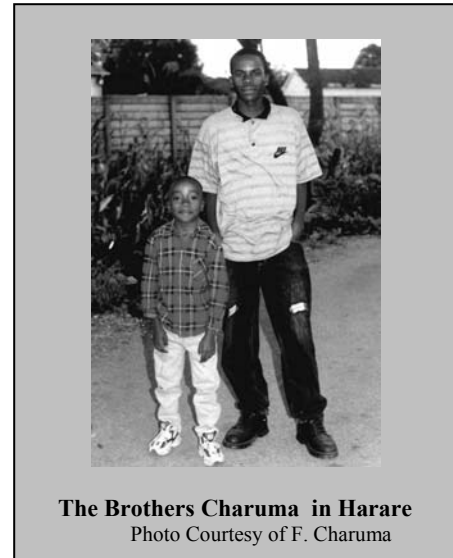
Zimbabwe

by Farai Charuma

Farai is a recent graduate of Highfield Secondary School in Harare and participated in the SSN Pen Pal Project.

Zimbabwe is a country found in the southern part of Africa—a good country! It is now twenty years after winning independence, but, even while enjoying the idea of being independent, the people are facing great economic hardships. President Mugabe once promised free education to the people of Zimbabwe, but this was not done at all. There are few factories and industries, and the country's population is large. Economic hardship is driving people into criminal activities and much prostitution. Because of high prices, most children are leaving school to go into the streets, where they are looking for a better living. Many are ill-treated at home, so they find it easy to leave there.

About seventy percent of the country is very, very poor, and the government is wasting billions of dollars in useless things. The money is just rotating from the country's ministers into the hands of a few business people and then back again, so they are failing to control the economy. Everyone is crying for a better living. Food and transportation costs are increasing every day, and people with money are leaving the country. I don't think there is going to be change, until further steps are taken.




The Brothers Charuma in Harare
Photo Courtesy of F. Charuma

THE YEAR OF HUNGER

In 1992 Zimbabwe faced the biggest drought that it had ever seen. The land was beaten by a stick. It was a year of no clouds and rain. Everyone was struggling. The land was dried. A severe drought hit the Zimbabweans and burnt them badly. Leaves, roots and fruits became the staple diet of us. A number of cattle died. Our Goats, dogs, and pigs also died. Little water was found in few major dams. It was a silent year. No one wasted time talking or singing, because of the hunger.

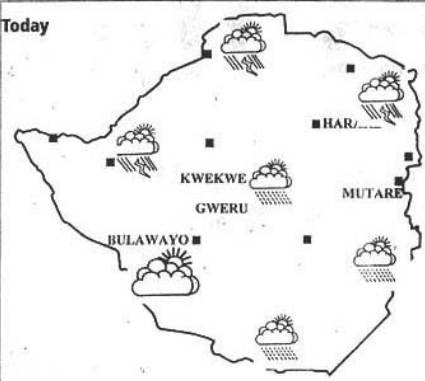
Many people also died, because there was a shortage of food, and sometimes people and animals were fighting for food. No crops survived. Trees let loose their leaves, and many plants died. Hot winds were blowing in all parts of the country and from all directions. Many children were no longer participating in school, and those who did participate were failing in their classes, because they were no longer able to think. It was as if the children's brains were no longer functioning.

Money became a useless thing, as there was nothing to buy, and many of people lost their jobs. Not enough crops were imported from neighbouring countries to feed all the people of Zimbabwe. America helped by sending tons of feed for cattle, but there were no longer cattle, and the yellow maize was eaten by the starving people of Zimbabwe. Suffering and death increased in many parts of the country. The land was hard like concrete. People surrendered themselves to God with ceremonies and prayers. They becomes worse and suffered to the last. Children were crying for food, but nobody answered them. They ended without voice, but the sun was always there, and the stars were shining daily ❖



Weather Report from Harare Daily News - Jan 2000

Today



Forecast for today: A moist airflow should continue to cover the country though drying from the southeast.
Mozowe, Makonde, Midlands and Gwayi: Generally cloudy with scattered thundershowers. Warm by day, mild overnight.
Bulawayo, Gwanda, Lowveld, Eastern Highlands, Marondera/Wedza, Masvingo and Gweru: Generally cloudy with morning drizzle and rainshowers. Warm by day, mild overnight.
Temperatures
Minimum temperatures: Harare 18, Bulawayo 15, Gweru 15, Mutare 14, Kwekwe 16.
Maximum temperatures: Harare 28, Bulawayo 23, Gweru 23, Mutare 24, Kwekwe 26.
Outlook: General decrease in rainfall activity

Interview with Madlyn NormanTerrance

This past Spring, Parents of African American Students (PAAS) and the Santa Cruz High School Black Student Union (BSU) held a youth retreat at the Monte Toyon Center in Aptos. PAAS Co-Chair Madlyn Norman-Terrance coordinated plans for the event, which was made possible by funding from the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County's Project Vecinos as well by member donations and participant fees.

Nubra: *What basically was the purpose of the retreat?*

Madlyn: *To provide our African American students with another set of survival skills for life after high school.*

Nubra: *What kinds of things took place during the 26 hours that the young people were together?*

Madlyn: *After introductions and ground rules, Cabrillo student Richard Smith shared some of his experiences as a recent high school graduate. Next, outdoor educator Ashanti Williams led the group through their paces with exercises on developing trust. Later that day, my husband Robert Terrance and our daughter Eboni demonstrated martial arts strategies for personal effectiveness, and that evening, we were fortunate to have you there to facilitate two student planning sessions.*

Nubra: *I was happy to be there and really enjoyed hearing Eboni talk about her time at Xavier and later Gabriel Craft about his first year at Howard--it was a wonderful evening!*

Madlyn: *Yes—and then, on Sunday morning, community building consultant Tony Hill led his fabulous workshop on personality style called, "True Colors." When we asked them to evaluate the retreat, the high schoolers all agreed that the best part was getting to know one another better .*

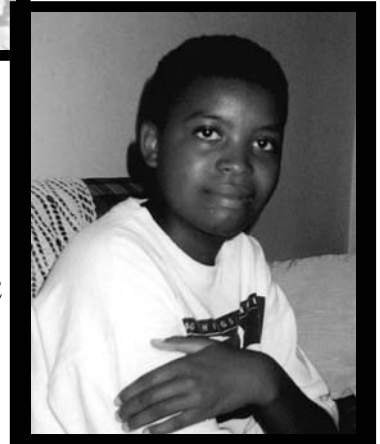
Nubra: *Are there plans for another youth retreat next year?*

Madlyn: *Absolutely!* ❖

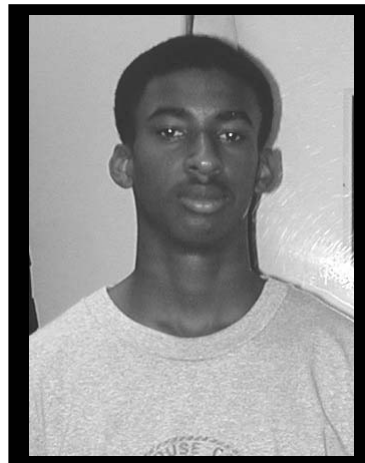
SSN Pen Pal Project



ARIANA BERND-BARNETT
AGE 17
DELTA SCHOOL
SANTA CRUZ, CA - USA



ALICE MABHURASI
FORM 4
AGE 16
ST. ANTHONY'S H.S.
MASVINGO - ZIMBABWE

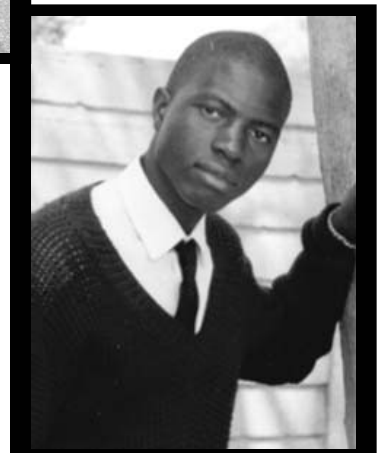


KAMAU NORMAN-TERRANCE
GRADE 12
SANTA CRUZ H.S.
SANTA CRUZ, CA - USA



Ashanti Williams builds a youth team - March 2001

Photo by R. Terrance



PHANUEL JOSEPH LINJE
FORM 4
HIGHFIELD H.S.
HARARE - ZIMBABWE

Q & A

Nubra,

My name is Jahmara, I'm 14 years old. I'm from New Jersey and I have a few questions about Zimbabwe:

1. What are the schools like there?"
2. What are the students like?
3. What kind of music do they like?
4. Do they have dances?
5. Do they get in trouble for "dirty dancing"?"

Thank You,
Jahmara Craft

Dear Jahmara:

Thanks for your March 12th letter and for asking such excellent questions! When my partner Michael and I made our first trip to Zimbabwe last January, we went to visit our friends Bill and Carolyn Martin Shaw, who had taken time off from their universities and were living in Harare for a couple of years. I was teaching courses in child and adolescent development at CSUMB and was particularly interested in meeting young people in Africa, so Carolyn arranged for us to visit Avondale Primary School and Highfield Secondary School.

Although the Zimbabweans gained their independence almost twenty years ago, both schools were still run on the British model. The teachers seemed to be quite dedicated, and even the very young children showed considerable self discipline on the school grounds as well as in the classroom. The Zimbabwean students we met also displayed a surprising amount of knowledge about the United States and wanted to know all about life in California.

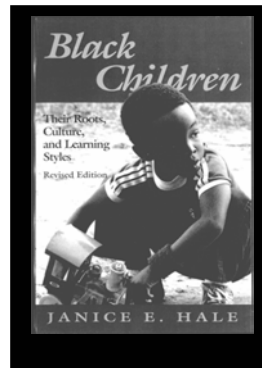
When we asked one Highfield class what kind of music they liked, there was no immediate response, so Michael said, "How about Michael Jackson?" That brought smiles and giggles from some of the girls, but when I said, "Snoop Doggie Dog is probably more like it," there was a sudden whooping and trilling from the boys in the back and so much laughing and clapping that I knew we were onto something!

When I asked what kind of activities they participated in outside of school, some of the male students mentioned debate club, playing soccer, or working in the school garden, but female students said they were needed at home after school to take care of the younger children. Noone mentioned dances as part of the school program, and I didn't get the impression that dancing would be done on the school premises, but students did say they had parties in their homes. Hope this begins to answer your questions, Jahmara and that you'll have an opportunity to write to one of the young people in Zimbabwe and learn some more about these things.

Nubra Elaine Floyd, Phd
June 14, 2001

Fall 2001 Saturday Class Reading Syllabus

*Identity and Achievement:
Enhancing Black Student
Development*



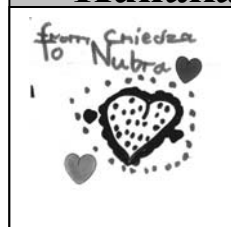
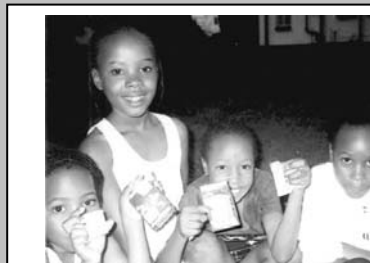
This Fall's Saturday Class will consist of two daylong sessions. The first will be held on Saturday, September 8th with a focus on "Culture and Child Rearing" and the second, which deals with "Indicators of Cognitive Style" will be held on Saturday, October 13th. Both will be held at Loudon Nelson Community Center from 9am to 5pm with lunch included in the cost of registration. For more information call class facilitator, Nubra Floyd at (831) 427-3718.

PLAN FOR SEP 8TH SESSION

9:00a - 10:30a Rounds: Learning to be Male
NOON - 1:00p [LUNCH]
1:00p - 2:20p Rounds: Learning to be Female
4:00p - 5:00p Session Closing & Cleanup

Black Children: Their Roots, Culture and Learning Styles by Janice E. Hale is available at the Santa Cruz Public Library and at UCSC McHenry Library. Paperback copies may be ordered for \$25 each by calling Second Saturday Network at (831) 427-3487. ❖

Art by Chiedza Kunaka



Chiedza with Kerri Phiri, Nyarai Vinyu and Michelle Vinyu
Avondale, Harare – Zimbabwe – Dec 2000

Q & A

If you have comments or questions about anything in this issue of *Second Saturday Net*--or would like to make some contribution of funding--or submit art or copy please mail to:

NUBRA ELAINE FLOYD
SECOND SATURDAY NETWORK
POST OFFICE BOX 8347
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95061

*This issue written and edited by Nubra Floyd and Tina Virrey .
July 2001*