
SECOND SATURDAY NET

Volume 1, Issue 3

March 2001

Project Vecinos Grant

Dear Network Members:

Good News! Last June we received a \$5,000 Project Vecinos Grant from the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz. The award resulted from a joint proposal writing effort between members of the original Second Saturday School planning group now organized as the African American Resource Committee (AARC) and Parents of African American Students (PAAS). Edwin "Ashanti" Williams, who was Treasurer for the Saturday School and is now Financial Officer for AARC, will administer the funds, and our \$2,450 share will be used to begin developing a student exchange project between Santa Cruz area youth and young people living in Harare, Zimbabwe. So far this year, we have conducted the following activities with the help of Project Vecinos funding:

- * *September: AFRICAN THEMED COOK-IN!*
- * *October: CLOTHING DONATION PACK-OUT!*
- * *November: ZIMBABWE TEACH-IN!*
- * *January: ADVISORY GROUP MEETING!*
- * *February: CLOTHING DONATION PACK-OUT!*



**Bill Shaw and Carolyn Martin-Shaw at home in Harare
Dec 2000**

Letters From Zimbabwe

Carolyn Martin-Shaw

October is typically the hottest month of the year. They call it "suicide month" because the heat is unbearable. Bill organized a lovely trip to Mozambique on the Indian Ocean where he and I and his students went on a dhow safari three islands off the coast--beautiful warm water, calm sea, pristine sand, and fantastic sea shells. The highlight was snorkeling at a coral reef a couple of miles out in the ocean.

The boat anchored a couple of hundred meters from the reef, and most people fitted themselves with snorkels and flippers and jumped in, but I didn't. I kept remembering when Koren and I went out in a glass bottom boat on the Indian Ocean. It was off the coast of Kenya and we got out right at the coral reef and had the comfort of having the boat nearby

Viola reminded me of my mother, when she saw me on my return. "Was Mozambique very hot?" she asked. "You are as dark as I am," She said. I really baked in the sun. It was also a time when Bill's students showed off their body art. There were not as many with tatoos as in previous groups, but two of the older students had brilliant ones. One had gotten an African girl to show her stomach scarification by first showing the tatoos on her own stomach.

The pastel jacaranda trees have glorious flowers. At the height of their bloom the tree is dressed totally in lavender, no leaves. As the season goes on, the green leaves begin to come out and the area around the trees gets a lovely light purple carpet. A daily newspaper said the jacarandas are the only bright thing in Harare. ❖

Highfield High School, Harare, Zimbabwe Jan 2000
photo by Mic Podorson



Viola's Mother

By Dudzai Miriam Gondo

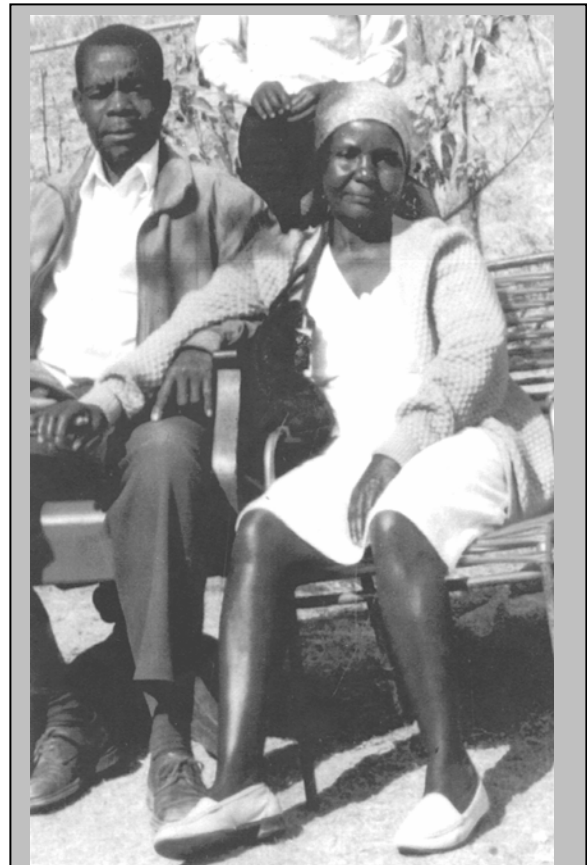
Viola Gondo and her husband James are employed by the University of Zimbabwe as caretakers at the housing complex where Carolyn and Bill are currently living in Harare, Zimbabwe, Miriam is one of their three daughters and participates in the Second Saturday Network Pen Pal Project .

Her full name was Chona Lillian Makanjera. She was born in 1935, and she passed away in 1995. She was the first born of five children with two sisters and two brothers. I think that Chona was married at the age of twenty and had spent her entire life in Mutoko, in the rural areas. Her mother died when she was between ten and fifteen, and Chona's father then married another woman who ill-treated the children, so she and her sisters and brothers decided that they wanted their own home where they lived without their step-mother and without their father. The stepmother was so cruel that she would even let them starve for days. She made them work a lot, and sometimes she would lock them out of the house, and they would sleep outside. Well, I guess what they say is true, "love is blind." Chona's father was so blinded that he wouldn't see his second wife's cruelty towards his children. She was the first born, she acted as mother to the other children. She used to carry her brothers on her back, as they were very young when their mother died. She also went on taking care of them, when she was married. She later advised her children not to always be dependent on their parents, because, if you lose them, you live a very difficult life.

Chona's father seemed not to care about his children because he never went at all to visit them and started living with his second wife in another village. Chona, her two sisters and her two brothers were totally neglected at this time by everyone they knew. She began to plough or cultivate her fields as a living. She would sell surplus crops in order to send her brothers and sisters to school. Chona herself never got any education at all. Chona also told her children that they should always be prepared for anything and they should also be able to think and decide for themselves. Chona later told her children that, when one is suffering, friends and relatives will turn away and look aside, no one will be willing to help you. She told them that one should always work hard, because if you are lazy and always asking for help, people will not like you. Chona was a very loyal Christian.

Chona did not mind if her daughters had

boyfriends, all she wanted was to meet and know the boy. When she was in her mid thirties, the war had started against the Rhodesians. At this time Viola was about 12 years old. The Rhodesian soldiers did not want any young men and women to have affairs, because they believed that the young women would cook and feed the guerillas. Whereas the men would serve as messengers and spies. At some point Viola and her sister Venecia were arrested by the Rhodesian soldiers. They stayed in jail for more than two months, and they really suffered. Because Chona cared so much for her daughters, she would go to the cells to see them, but the soldiers would not allow her to. They would actually, beat her up severely. During the war, older women like Chona were not allowed to cook for the guerillas. She just served the food. Viola and the other young ladies were forced to cook for them, because they were not having their monthly periods yet. They believed that if a menstruating woman cooked then they would be defeated in war, because the spirit mediums would not protect them. During the war, villagers were moved to large fenced settlements. When the war ended, everyone returned to their farms and started to build houses again.❖



Chona Lillian Makanjera with husband Sylvester in Zimbabwe - courtesy V. Gondo

Interview with Shoshonna Levi

On November 11th, a teach-in on Zimbabwe in the Santa Cruz High cafeteria and featured a video by Simon Bright called, "Mbira--Spirit of the People." Madlyn Norman-Terrence of Creative Cookery provided African styled food, and Shoshonna Levi of Grassroots Graphics presented educational displays on Zimbabwe. Funding was provided by Community Foundation of Santa Cruz, SCHS AVID Program, and UCSC AASLRC.

Nubra: *You did a good deal of research for this project*

Shoshonna: *First I searched on the internet, and then I went up to UCSC to look. Much of what I ended up using was from books that I found at McHenry library...*

Nubra: *How did you decide which material to use?*

Shoshonna: *I started with the art, literature and music from that era. I wanted to use the original words and images that had inspired the revolution in representing the repressive regime called Rhodesia and how the organizing effort was accomplished that resulted in such a phenomenal outcome. I was hoping that kids would realize what it takes to make a change. When you're trying to unite a community, you have to be inspirational--and that takes music and poetry and art.*

Nubra: *We had Barrios Unidos put the wonderful logo you designed on a Zimbabwe Teach-in sweatshirt..*

Shoshonna: *The original art is from the revolution. Africa is represented as a fist holding a rifle aloft. I'm not advocating violence, but it's an image of power that shows a united people fighting for a common good.*

Nubra: *This film helped me see gangster rap differently.*

Shoshonna: *Me too, because it helped me see guns as part of the imagery of resistance and to think of it in terms of the power behind being proud of who you are.*

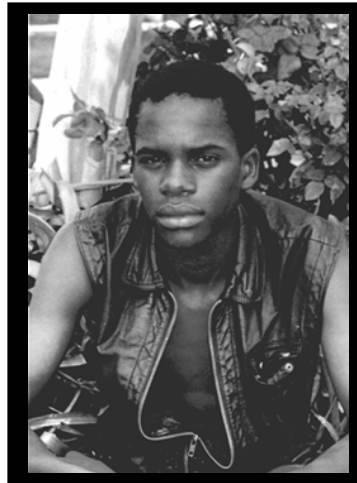
Nubra: *Was that the purpose of the Teach-in for you?*

Shoshonna: *Well yes--to have us as Americans appreciate the African spirit and what it is that's so incredible about it! ❖*

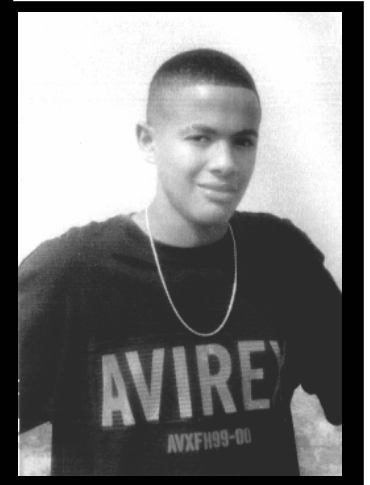


Shoshonna, Kashyah, & Ariel
Nov 2000

SSN Pen Pal Project



FARAI CHARUMA, AGE 18
FORM 4 (O LEVEL)
HIGHFIELD HS
HARARE - ZIMBABWE



SIMBA JONES, AGE 15
GRADE 10
SANTA CRUZ HS
SANTA CRUZ,
CALIFORNIA - USA



MIRIAM GONDO, AGE 16
FORM 3
MOUNT PLEASANT HS
HARARE - ZIMBABWE



NICOLE JACKSON, AGE 22
SANTA CRUZ HS GRAD
CSU MONTEREY BAY
SEASIDE, CALIFORNIA -USA

Q & A

Dear Dr. Floyd

My name is Itai Godfrey Gondo, I am doing my 'O' Level at Highfield High School. You once visited our school previously this year and left your address for future contact to interested pupils.

My attention was drawn particularly on the education system in your country which I am interested in, I was wondering if you can supply me with information about Universities or Colleges which offer nursing programmes.

I would be very grateful if you give me a positive response on the above information.

How was your trip back home and How are you?

Yours sincerely,

Itai Godfrey Gondo
14 June 2000

Greetings Itai Godfrey Gondo!

Thank you for your letter of June 14th, and I hope I've correctly understood how you are to be addressed. It was good to hear from another one of the students we met and talked with, during our visit to Highfield, and I will be happy to provide you with whatever information I can. My own teaching experience has been mainly at the university level, but a student interested in nursing would be more likely to begin with two years at a community college, so I'm enclosing some information about courses offered at Cabrillo College, which is located nearby.

As a public institution, Cabrillo has little in the way of financial assistance for students from other countries, but it may be possible to identify some private sources of funding for you, once you are able to qualify for admission. If you would like me to work with you on an application for the 2001-2002 school year, it would be helpful to have a copy of your school records (including national examination scores), so that I can talk more specifically with the admissions staff about your preparation for college level work. Until such time as I may hear from you again, I wish you all the best!

*Nubra Elaine Floyd, Phd
August 15, 2000*

Q & A?

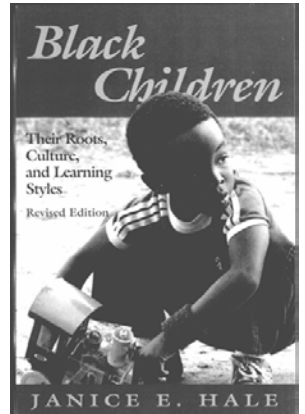
If you have comments or questions about anything in this issue of *Second Saturday Net* ...or would like to submit art or copy for a future issue...or make a contribution of funding please mail to:

**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
w/additional photos by NEF - March 15th 2001*

Saturday Class Reading List

During Fall 2000, community-based educator, Nubra Floyd held a weekly discussion group at Louden Nelson Community Center that dealt with issues of identity and achievement and focused on enhancing Black student development. The ten week class was offered under the auspices of Second Saturday Network and in cooperation with Santa Cruz High. Paperback copies of the books discussed may be ordered for \$25 each by calling Second Saturday Network at (831) 427-3487.



📖 **Black Children: Their Roots, Culture and Learning Styles**, by Janice Hale-Benson.

📖 **The Content of Our Character: A New Vision of Race in America**, by Shelby Steele.

📖 **Between Voice and Silence: Women and Girls, Race and Relationship**, by Jill Taylor, Carol Gilligan & Amy Sullivan.

📖 **Blacks in the White Establishment: A Study of Race and Class in America**, by Rick Zweigenhaft and Bill Domhoff.



Art by Kashyah Levi