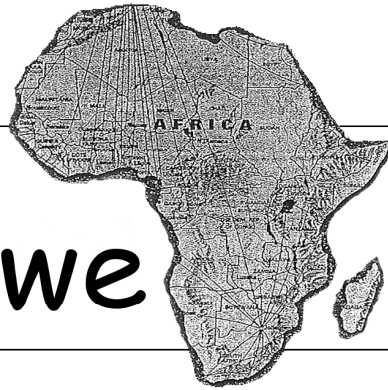


Second Saturday Net

March 2006

Zimbabwe



Interview with Bill Shaw & Mic Podorson

Professor William Shaw teaches philosophy at San Jose State University. Michael Podorson has a local woodworking business called Signs of Success. This is part of a series of interviews conducted for an SJSU African American Studies course on economic issues to exemplify the seven principles of Kwanzaa as reflected in the worklives of our network members. It was conducted on March 5th and speaks to the principle of collective work and responsibility (Ujima).

Nubra: *What attracted you and Carolyn to Zimbabwe as a place to live from 1999 to 2001?*

Bill: Zimbabwe's one of the international programs offered by the CSU--by the California State University system...Carolyn and I had been in Zimbabwe before and thought we'd take the opportunity to go back there...For the other CSU programs if you go as a professor you need to speak the language—like Chinese or Italian or something...and there's not so many opportunities for CSU professors to go abroad...I was Resident Director of the CSU International Program in Zimbabwe--now the students all took Shona when they were there and that's part of the CSU philosophy is that when students go on these year long programs they're expected to take extensive language instruction...The program had been up and running about ten years before we came...It's when we came back a couple of years later that the program ended—or at least was suspended—and since then CSU has started one in South Africa and one in Ghana...

[Michael: Because of the political situation?] Umhum--and the economic situation...After we left inflation grew so much and the currency was regulated so there was an official exchange rate and an unofficial *gray market/black market* rate—the only way people could survive in Zimbabwe was to use the unofficial rate...it's very hard for an institution to do that...but if we didn't do that you'd be paying like Harvard prices to go to the University of Zimbabwe...so it was that kind of problem more than just the political problems—or dangers...While we were living there in this period, you'd get reports of how wild and chaotic Zimbabwe was in some parts...as a visitor you're sort of outside the system—you're not caught up in that sort of fighting...

Nubra: *Michael--did you know much about what was happening in Zimbabwe...?*

Michael: Not really--I went as an adventure...I guess I didn't know what to expect but what I saw was...astounding example and opportunity for local sustainable business and way of life...given a decent political situation people could actually form a basic economy—a way of providing for themselves out of just what they had there without having to resort to interacting with other players—other economies—other countries—other political structures...I must say my impression of Zimbabwe was startlingly like: *This is Africa!* What I saw was: *This is the heart of Africa! This is what it's all about...people, country...everything! The Mother!!!*

Bill: Zimbabwe has--for a small country—a really wide range of industries—little companies making all sorts of things...when we first went there in the 80s ...they had really extensive recycling—bottles and papers and stuff—out of economic necessity...so it was done by the White minority regime when they were trying to conserve their resources under pressure from the rest of the world but it did give a kind of protection for the local economy so that when they became independent they were much more diversified and much more economically developed—and self sufficient...They do sell on the world market—they're not isolated from that any more...a lot of these little companies sell throughout Africa and sometimes outside depending on the product...

Nubra: *I saw a lot of evidence of Chinese alliance when we were there in 2003. ****

Email sent: Friday, March 10, 2006 9:22PM

Greetings from Highfield High School, Zimbabwe

We acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of a consignment of: 45 copies of Second Saturday Newsbook; 11 copies of **American Legacy**, *The Magazine of African-American History and Culture*; 4 copies of **American Legacy**, *Woman-creating Our Heritage, Lifestyle and Beauty*. The consignment of the books arrived in mid-February 2006 and we have proudly inventoried it as part of our library stocks.

The textbook needs for our English Department remains the same as indicated in our previous correspondences. The school has textbook deficits and we therefore cherish the efforts that are being made by Second Saturday Network to assist in that regard.

We received US\$100 on the 6 of December 2005 and after banking the cheque with Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe, we got Z\$5 447 994.90 to US\$100. From your earlier correspondence, you indicated that the money was meant to benefit four students applying to colleges in the United States. We have only had one claimant of that money, Charity Ngoro, who received her share of the amount in January. We still have three outstanding claims from the other beneficiaries. We will fully disburse the money when the other claimants contact the school.

Best regards,
C. MAZONDE

***American Legacy** *How Africans Spiced America's Cuisine: Spr 2001 (v7n1)*

***American Legacy** *St Croix - Black Heritage in a Caribbean Paradise: Sum 2001 (v7n2)*

***American Legacy** *Saving Our Historic Schools: Spr 2003 (v9n1)*

***American Legacy** *Bill Russell - A Basketball Star Who Spoke Out For Civil Rights: Sum 2003 (v9n2)*

***American Legacy** *Timeless Beauty - How Ophelia Devore Conquered The Fashion World: Fall 2003 (v9n3)*

***American Legacy** *Properous & Black In The 1950s: Win 2004 (v9n4)*

***American Legacy** *At Rest - A Historic Burial: Spr 2004 (v10n1)*

***American Legacy** *Destination Hampton, Virginia - A Special Travel Issue: Sum 2004 (v10n2)*

***American Legacy** *Bert Williams - The Two Faces of A Forgotten Star: Win 2005 (v10n4)*

***American Legacy** *Ali When He Was Cassius Clay: Spr 2005 (v11n1)*

***American Legacy** *War Hero - The Forgotten Triumph of Christian Fleetwood: Sum 2005 (v11n2)*

***American Legacy** *Woman Hollywood Sister Power - Decades of Strong Actors From Hattie McDaniel to Queen Latifah - Pam Grier, Still Standing Strong: Fall & Win 2003*

***American Legacy** *Woman Harmony Through A Holistic Lifestyle - Tony Award Winner Phylicia Rashad: Fall & Win 2004*

***American Legacy** *Woman Soul Talking - Tapping The Power Of The Spoken Word - Performance Artist/Poet/Activist/Playwright Sarah Jones: Spr & Sum 2004*

***American Legacy** *Woman-A Quintessential Woman Mary Casey-Bey: Spr & Sum 2005*

Second Saturday Newsbook: 2001-02 (45 copies)

**Second Saturday Network
Post Office Box 8347
Santa Cruz, California 95061-USA
Phone: +831 427 3487
Email: secondnet@hotmail.com**

Effie Machimbizofa
Mutare - Zimbabwe

November 15, 2005

Dear Effie:

I was very pleased to receive your letter and to hear about how things have been going for you since last we met. I especially want to congratulate you and your husband on the birth of your child and on your plans to continue your education. My work with Second Saturday has included some student advising, and I may be able to help you begin to research educational opportunities in the United States. When you write again, please let me know whether you have access to the internet.

I am enclosing copies of past newsletters to give you a sense of the community based learning experiences we've been providing for African heritage families here in this country. More recent issues that focus on our project in Zimbabwe are enclosed as well along with a coupon for return postage and self addressed envelope. Perhaps you can send us a photo of your son to include in some future issue of *Second Saturday Net Zimbabwe*. Wishing you and your family all the best...

19 December 2005

Dear Nubra

I was very delighted to receive your letter dated 15 November 2005. I would like to thank you very much for the good work that Second Saturday Network is doing to help young people in this country to study in USA. I would also like to thank you very much for instilling back the hope in me about furthering my education in your country, especially with the look of things here in Zimbabwe. My email address is effiemachimbizofa@yahoo.com which I can easily access.

As per your request I have enclosed a recent photo of my son Danai Masiko 28/12 years. Here is wishing you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year...

Yours faithfully,

Effie Machimbizofa

