



THE LINDENER

The Linden Fund Newsletter

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4th Edition
Winter 2003

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Linden Fund News

Welcome to our 4th edition of **The Lindener**, a semi-annual newsletter with information about the members & the activities of The Linden Fund organization, no matter where in the world it's located. As usual, all ideas and contributions to the newsletter are welcome. ☺

2002 was a very successful year for the Linden Fund organization. We were able to execute a number of programs that directly had an impact on the members of the community.

Five schools in Linden had several classrooms equipped with uniform, comfortable desks and chairs as part of Phase 1 of the \$1M (G) School Furniture project. (*See page 2*)

Two young ladies, Leuanna Sparman of Wismar Housing Scheme and Abiola Parris of Christianburg were the winners of 2 full Morgan/LFU scholarships to UG, totaling some \$3.8M over 4 years. (*More in our next edition*)

Our 2002 dinner was held in NY on Labor Day Saturday (August 31st) and it was a blast! Our thanks to all of you that came to support this annual coming together with friends, near and far! It was a blast, as you can see below!

(GO! Gail, Geri, Cynthy, Keith & others!!)



Continued on page 3

All of us at the
LINDEN FUND,
wish you & your family



**PEACE
&
PROSPERITY
IN 2003**

Mission Statement

The mission of The Linden Fund, USA is to promote and sustain a healthy Linden community, with a particular focus on education. The Linden Fund, USA shall form strategic partnerships with other entities with a similar focus in addition to those seeking to develop and deploy new technologies to reinvigorate the mining industry, the lifeblood of the Linden community. It shall provide funding to requests, projects and initiatives that promote and enhance the social

SCANNER

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Member Profile



Sharon Parkinson, Albany, NY

What drew you to your profession?

I am an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Albany, NY. My initial goal was not to teach in the University; it was to educate youths and adults about Africana (African, Caribbean and African-American) heritage and culture by forming my own training design and consulting business. In the late 90s while I was in graduate school, there was an emphasis on trying to get more blacks and women to become college professors. At that time only one percent of all whites held PhDs, but only 0.3% of all blacks held PhDs. That's less than one-half of a percent of blacks over the age of 25 in the entire Nation. So, I decided I would pursue a career in academia

Values that shape your life?:

The values that shape my life now are: integrity and authenticity. Integrity is about honesty and uprightness, but it also signifies "wholeness". Integrity is very difficult to maintain. Sometimes we become splintered or mildly schizophrenic--doing or saying contradictory things during different moments, or being split on issues. It's hard to lay down some truths and follow them consistently. Authenticity is the quality of being genuine. Often we don't live our lives authentically, being true to ourselves. We have a tendency to try to keep step with other people's expectations.

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Linden Schools Furniture Project

The \$1M (G) Phase 1 School Furniture Project, established as a memorial to R.A. Adams, former Linden entrepreneur and contractor, was an unqualified success. 405 pieces of furniture: chairs, desks and combination chair/attached top, were produced from local wood at the Linden Technical Institute (LTI), formerly the Trade School.

Early Stage in production!



The direct impact of this project was that several graduates of LTI were employed for this phase and LTI apprentices got real world, hands on experience in furniture production!

Five schools: New Silvercity Secondary, Wisburg Secondary, Multilateral Secondary, MHS & Linden Foundation received furniture based on need and increased student enrollment.

LTI Director Michael Turner, instructors and apprentices worked long hours, amidst blackouts, to complete Phase 1 furniture in time for the start of the September term.

A formal handover, attended by the wife of R.A. Adams, was held at LTI and was organized by the LFT, our sister organization in Linden.

Mid-Stage in production!



Some of the Final Product!



Each piece of furniture carried a small metal engravement, with the words:

In Memory of
RUPERT "R. A." ADAMS
Compliments of
THE LINDEN FUND, USA

Phase 2, a \$3M (G) furniture project began in September 2003, in partnership with LTI & the Regional Education Department. Information to come on this phase.

For more information on activities in Linden and the LFT, contact Jenny George-Parkinson, *Secretary* at 444-3335 or denjented@yahoo.com

Member Profile (cont'd from page 1)

Family: ☺ I consider my family to be my greatest source of inspiration. They have given me all of the tools needed to move through life successfully and in a spiritual way that allows me to be authentic and true to myself. From my mother, Hyacinth, I've learned how to be compassionate, sensitive and to listen to others who are usually overlooked because they are shy or introverted. From my father, Dennis, I learned how to be sociable and likeable. From my grandmother, Alma, I learned what it means to speak up for what is just, and to not be a passive observer of life, but to take action to change the political and social structure. My aunts Geraldine and Claire, have taught me that I am no second-class citizen, no minority, and certainly not a woman who should be afraid to be assertive, powerful and self-actualized.

Memories of Linden: My favorite memories of Linden are fluties on a hot day. Rolling around in the grass and, in general, getting dirty in my grandparents back yard on Greenheart Street. Eating mangoes, sour sop, guava and all of the other exotic fruit that are found in Guyana. Cuddling up with my aunties and uncle and listening to them tell stories. All of my Linden memories are of childhood years because I left there when I was eight years old. However, I'm really grateful that the most important years of my life were spent there. I feel fortunate to have had a happy childhood.

What do you wish your legacy to be? When my grandmother died in 1999, legacy became clear to me, for she had already passed hers on long before she left. I would like my legacy to be:

That my life should have provided the inspiration for someone else to do whatever beneficial or positive little thing they could.

That I should have given someone the courage to break through limitations and transcend some barrier towards greater good.

That I should have paved the way for the transformation of some condition that was oppressive to others.

View of life? What struck me about life is its purpose. I study a variety of spiritual traditions and practices: Traditional African spirituality, Taoism, Tantra, and others. Reading the World's holy books provides insights into commonalities and basic principles that people have discovered over the centuries. Essentially life is a soul's journey. That's it in a nutshell.

I like this quote by Lao Tzu because it is so practical:

In dwelling, live close to the ground.
In thinking, keep it simple.
In conflict, be fair and generous.
In governing, don't try to control.
In work, do what you enjoy.
In family life, be completely present.

When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you.

View From Bahrain, By Howard Brittlebank



Bio-Sketch

- *Grew up in Retrieve, Linden.
- *Attended MHS & QC '66 -'73
- *MHS Math Teacher '73 -'74
- *Guymine Cadet '74 - '75
- *BS -Manchester College (UK) '75 -'78
- *Guymine Project & Senior Engineer & Superintendent '78- '88
- * MS -U of Illinois '88 - '90
- *AMOCO- Project Engineer. '90 - 99
- *Siemens Westinghouse Power Corp. - Project Engineer '99 - '01
- *SAUDI ARAMCO (Oil Co.) '01-present
- *WHAT I DO: Project Engineering for Oil Refining Companies, Chemical Plants and Gas Plants/Power Plants.
- *Dad deceased; Mom & 4 siblings alive.

Home Base: Orlando, FL.

In this edition, HB shares information, pictures and observations of BAHRAIN!

Thanks HB!

“The state - BAHRAIN, is a group of 33 islands situated in the Arabian Gulf, off the east coast of Saudi Arabia. It is connected to the Saudi mainland by the 25km long King Fahd Causeway (a bridge, approx. 16 miles). The causeway is possible since the Gulf is very shallow in that area. **The main city, which is also the capital, is Manama.**”

“**The name BAHRAIN is derived from two Arabic words "thnain Bahr" meaning "two seas" and refers to the phenomenon of sweet water springs under the sea, which mingle with the salty water. This phenomenon is believed to be responsible for the unusual luster of Bahrain's natural pearls, the country's major economy before the production of oil in the 1930s.**”

HB WITH CAMELS IN THE DESERT



“**The state takes its name from the largest island Bahrain. There are numerous other tiny islands, but they are mainly uninhabited and are best known for the variety of migrating birds in spring and autumn. Arabic is the official language, although English is widely understood and it's used by most businesses. Islam is the religion practiced by a large majority.**”

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LFU News (cont'd from page 1)

Over \$250,000 (G) in scholarships to MHS were also disbursed, in addition to \$800,000 (G) targeted donations for a Church program for the Poor.

NJ Chapter held its Family Day in July and its Thanksgiving Party to great success. The **NY Chapter** held its Spring Affair in April and then celebrated Guyana's independence in May by co-hosing a brunch at St. Mark's Church, followed in August by a Kids Day.

(Partying at LFU Dinner Dance 2002)



By pooling the little we each have, we can live our motto “*One, one dutty, build dam.*”

Looking for help to set up a CHAPTER in your STATE? It's easier than your think. The LFU Board is only too happy to help.
Contact us at: lindenfund@kaiteur.com

The Linden Fund! Serving our hometown

The Linden Fund, USA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Annual Dues: \$ _____ Year: _____

(\$50.00 minimum)

All contributions are fully tax-deductible!

Higher donations earn you privileges. For details, visit our website or contact any Board member of the Linden Fund, USA!

Return completed form and payment to:
The Linden Fund, USA
P.O. Box 3392
New York, NY 10163-3392

E-mail: secretary@lindenfund.org 718/482-3150

Website: <http://www.lindenfund.org>

View From Bahrain *(cont'd from page 3)*

“BAHRAIN gets a lot of its business from tourism, especially from Saudi tourists who are thirsty and need to have something stronger than water. There is also a US naval base located there, so US personnel spend a lot of dollars there. The current major (only) mall is **Seef mall (picture below)** and this is a popular shopping stop for Saudis and expatriates who travel to Bahrain.”

View of SEEF MALL



“The country offers a fascinating blend of eastern and western cultures as high-rise buildings vie for space with more traditional dwellings and ancient traditions and historical sites mix with modern developments and cosmopolitan living.”

LUXURY CONDOS NEAR FORT



“Overall, Bahrain offers all of the normal conveniences and facilities for social interaction as is accustomed in the Western world. Bahrain's population of around 600,000 consists of a significant percentage of expatriates from all over the world. Locals and expatriates live together and interact in a rare bond of fraternity and brotherhood.”

Linden Fund Canada

The Linden Fund Canada held its Dinner & Dance on October 12th at the Rembrandt Centre, Markham, Ontario. This is shaping up to be an annual tradition, so do plan to come in 2003.

The LFC is looking forward to sponsoring a number of activities in Linden in 2003, including an eyeglasses recycling program and collaboration with a Canadian International Aid organization to acquire training in various areas for Lindenites.

Details later on these and other initiatives.

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“The Bahrainis enjoy a greater degree of freedom than the Saudis. This means that they are not subject to the religious mandates or dictates as with the Saudi. They are fundamentally Muslim and generally follow the main pillars of Islam. However, women in particular are not restricted as in Saudi Arabia. They dress casually like Western women and are allowed to drive. They can also hold relatively important positions and have voting rights.”

View of OLD FORT



Editor's note: Thanks Howard. Many of us only hear about this part of the word from listening to the news, and it is generally in relation to conflict. A different view is much appreciated!