

# LIHEDE 5TH ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE

AUGUST 21-22, 2009

**WE DARE TO PRESERVE HISTORY FOR POSTERITY!**

THEME: "UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES AND OUR HISTORY: A CALL TO UNITY & COLLECTIVE DEVELOPMENT IN LIBERIA"



GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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## Welcome in Liberian Languages

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LIHEDE takes great pride in preserving and promoting the cultural history of Liberia, especially the language, culture, traditional, norms, and mores of the ethnic groups of Liberia. LIHEDE is therefore proud to welcome each and every one of you to the 5th Anniversary Jubilee in the languages of the 16 major ethnic groups of Liberia. The table below shows the major ethnic groups of Liberia on the left, and an equivalent greeting of “welcome” in each of the Liberian languages on the right.

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<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Equivalent Greeting Of “Welcome”</b>
Bandi (Gbandi)	Ì Se Vaama!
Bassa	Be Zuo Bo Dyi Jè!
Dahn (Gio)	Y Zuo Nu Láá!
Dewion (Dei)	A Sen Oh - Co Na Weh
Gola	Baika Wee Ehnaiy M̩â
Grebo	A Boi A Bi Sayda Badi
Kissi	Báliká!
Kpelle	ÌSere Piâ!
Krahn (wee)	Daho!
Klao (Kru)	Á Juà!
Kuwaa (Belle)	Mama Jinu!
Lorma	È Mama Vaazu!
Mahn (Mano)	I Zuo Nu Pía!
Mandinka (Mandingo)	Ebuni Ebalá, Enala Ebalá
Mende	Bianaoh!
Sarpo	Án Tl̩ De Un Jele!
Vai	Báika Ya Ná Kowa!

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## LIHEDE Founders

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Co-Founder



*Syrulva Somah, PhD*

Co-Founder



*Siabyonkron Nyanseor, MA*

Co-Founder



*Nat Galarea Gbessagee, MS*

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## Board of Directors

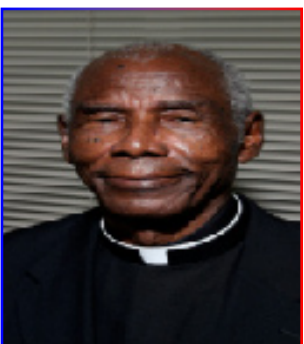
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**Mr. Lawrence Amos Zumo, MD**, is Chairman of the Board of Directors of LIHEDE. He attended St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School on the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC)'s Rubber Plantation in Gorzohn, Grand Bassa County. Dr. Zumo attended St. Patrick's High School in Monrovia on full scholarship earned by scoring the highest on the Catholic High School matriculation exams. He graduated from University Medical School in Debrecen, Hungary near the top of his medical school class. Dr. Zumo later immigrated to the U.S., and he is now a practicing certified neurologist in Baltimore, Maryland. He is author of *An Awesome Run*, a revealing book about individual hope and self-confidence in very challenging times.



**Mr. Marvin Dickerson, BS**, is immediate past and first Chairman of the Board of Directors of LIHEDE. He is former Director of ARISA with NC A&T State University. Mr. Dickerson is currently the Safety/Quality Control Manager at Pitney Bowes Government Solutions Atlanta Surface Transfer Center.



**Msgr. Robert G. Tikpor, PhD**, is an original member of the Board of Directors of LIHEDE. He is a priest with the Catholic Diocese of Monrovia, Liberia. Msgr. Tikpor holds a PhD in theology from the Catholic Seminary in Rome, Italy.

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## Board of Directors *(Continued)*

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**Dr. Hon. Yancy Peter Flah, MA**, is former Professor of History at the University of Liberia. He served as Deputy Minister for Presidential Affairs, Dean of Admissions at the University of Liberia, and the first principal for Zwedru Multilateral High School, Grand Gedeh County.



**Hon. Joseph M.N. Gbadyu, MA**, is former superintendent (county executive) of Grand Bassa County, Liberia. He is also former deputy minister for operation, production, and coordination at the Liberian Ministry of Internal Affairs. Hon. Gbadyu is a Bassa Language and Culture Historian, and statesman extraordinaire. He played crucial roles in the political, educational, and religious transformations of the Bassa people and Liberia in general.



**Rev. J. Emmanuel Z. Bowier, MA**, is an original member of the Board of Directors of LIHEDE. Former Liberian Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism. Rev. Bowier holds a BS Degree in Sociology from the University of Liberia and a Master of Divinity from the John Wesley Seminary of the United Methodist, USA.

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## LIHEDE Executive Officers

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**Mr. Syrulwa Somah, PhD**, is a co-founder and executive director of LIHEDE. He is an Associate Professor of Environmental Health and Occupational Safety & Health and Coordinator of Graduate Studies at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Greensboro, North Carolina. He also holds an AA in liberal studies from LaGuardia Community College in Long Island, New York; a BS in Labor Studies/Occupational Safety & Health from the State University of New York; a MSA in healthcare administration from Central Michigan University and a MLS in history and religion from the University of Oklahoma. His PhD is in policy studies with concentration on environmental and occupational health from the Union Institute & Universities in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Somah is author of several books, including *The Historical Resettlement of Liberia and*

*Its Environmental Impact*; *Christianity, Colonization, and State of African Spirituality*, and *Nyanyan Gohn-Manan: History, Migration & Government of the Bassa*, a book about traditional Bassa leadership and cultural norms, one of the sixteen major ethnic groups of Liberia. Dr. Somah serves as advisor to the LIHEDE 5th anniversary jubilee planning committee.



**Mr. Siahyonkron Nyanseor, MA**, is co-founder and treasurer of LIHEDE. Mr. Nyanseor is a Liberian native with thirty-one years of professional public and private-sector experience in the fields of administrative management, healthcare services, human service delivery, and staff development. He taught Person Centered Planning, Mental Retardation, and Cultural Issues to new employees at Georgia Regional Hospital/Atlanta for many years, and he once served as Expert Witness at political asylum hearings in the U.S. in regard to Liberia's 14-year civil war. Mr. Nyanseor, a Mental Health Clinician and Qualified Mental Retardation Professional, is a founding member and former president of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA), Inc. He is also publisher of *The Perspective Internet Web* magazine, and his research and writing interests fall largely within Africa, with particular focus on the history, economics, politics, sociology, ethics, and theology of

people of African-origin living in Africa and its Diaspora. Mr. Nyanseor, a poet, journalist, and cultural and political activist, holds a certificate in Ore Handling Operations, a certificate in journalism, a BSW in social administration, and MA in political science. Mr. Nyanseor heads LIHEDE 5th anniversary jubilee planning committee's sub-committee on finance.



**Mr. Nat Galarea Gbessagee, MS**, is co-founder and secretary general of LIHEDE. He is former director of public affairs in the Liberian Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, and former Senior Information Officer at the Liberian Embassy in Washington, DC. Mr. Gbessagee's formal training and education includes print journalism, human resources, professional writing, and computer information systems. He is a well-known within the Diaspora Liberian Community in the U.S for his articles and other writings on Liberia. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Rhetoric and Technical Communication at Michigan Technological University in Michigan, focusing on composition pedagogic, cultural studies, and risk communication. Mr. Gbessagee is writer and editor of almost all LIHEDE official documents and communication, except for press releases and other documents authored by the executive director, the treasurer, or the director of publication.

Mr. Gbessagee heads the LIHEDE 5th anniversary jubilee Planning Committee's sub-committees on presentation abstracts and souvenir program.



**Mr. Sam Togba Slewion**, a professional journalist, is Director of Publications of LIHEDE. He is former Secretary General of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) and a founding member and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Inquirer newspaper in Liberia. He presently serves as Coordinator of the Technical Committee of the Liberia Media Support Initiative (LI-MESI), a collaborative partnership between a group of Liberian journalists in the Diaspora of the United States and the Center for Policy Studies and Development at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Survivors of Torture located in Philadelphia and an affiliate of the Lutheran Church of Philadelphia, USA. He served as a member of the Advisory Board and volunteer of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) USA Project. Mr. Slewion heads the LIHEDE 5th anniversary jubilee Planning Committee's sub-committees on public relations.



**Ret. Col. Horlin Carter, Sr., PhD**, serves as African & African-American Affairs Director. He is an Associate Professor of Occupational Safety & Health at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Greensboro, North Carolina. Dr. Carter has thirty-two years experience in the United States Air Force, beginning as an enlisted airman and retiring as a Colonel. He is former Deputy Director for Facilities and Distribution Management at Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Transportation Squadron Commander, 145th Aerial Port Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard, Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Carter also served as the Chief of Staff and Faculty Development Division (SFDD) in the Directorate of Training and Doctrine, U.S. Army, Fort Ben Harrison, Indiana, and as the Assistant Vice-Chancellor of ARISA at North Carolina A & T State University. He presently lives in Greensboro, North Carolina.



**Ms. Mariah Y. Seton, PhD**, was born in Harper, Maryland County, Liberia. She is the daughter of Nathaniel Seton and Lucy Toe Seton. She attended the college of West Africa High School and Konola Academy in Liberia. Dr. Seton earned two Associate Degrees from Harry Truman College, and her BS, Master's, and PhD in Administration from the Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Seton held several administrative positions in with the City of Chicago, including advocate for the disadvantaged, women, and the homeless. Dr. Seton says she believes in and cherishes LIHEDE's philosophy of giving back to the community, and describes act of giving as the best patriotic duty ever.



**Mr. Augustus B. Menyongai, BA**, is LIHEDE-Liberia National Coordinator. He is a former director of Liberia Watch for Human Rights Community Development Program, and former program officer of Rural Human Rights Activities Program of Liberia. Mr. Menyongai holds a BA in Religious Education from the African Methodist Episcopal University in Monrovia, and several certificates in peace building, fact-finding, monitoring and documentation in human rights, and development and leadership from amnesty international and related agencies. Mr. Menyongai is assisted in the LIHEDE-Liberia office by Mr. Tamba Clark, Director of Social Mobilization; J. Zar Brown, Director of Agricultural Services; Ms. Cecelia Reeves, Director of Educational Services, and Ms. Peal Harris, Comptroller. The LIHEDE-Liberia soccer team, Club Bassa, has Mr. Lomax Kesselly as Team Manager, Mr. Dae A. Fofana as Coach, and Mr. Jospser B. Carlton as Secretary. No photos were available for the LIHEDE-Liberia staff up to the printing of this program, except for Mr. Menyongai.

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## LIHEDE 5th Anniversary Jubilee Planning Committee

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**Mr. Joseph T-G Gbaba, Sr., Ed.D.**, is General Chair of the LIHEDE 2009 5th anniversary jubilee. He is an internationally-known Liberian artist/scholar, playwright, and theatre director and actor. He is former Acting Deputy Minister for Culture and Tourism in the Liberian Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism (1992), and founder and Executive Director of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. Dr. Gbaba holds a BA in English from the University of Liberia (1980); an MFA in Theatre from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (1983), and a MS in Education (Elementary and Special Education) from St. Joseph's Jesuit University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2002), and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from St. Joseph's University of Liberia (2009). Dr. Gbaba has taught Literature, Drama, and Contemporary Writing at the University of Liberia, Cuttington University, A.M.E. Zion Community College, and numerous high schools in Liberia, including St. Patrick's, St. Teresa's Convent, College of West Africa, A.M.E. Zion High School. He is also former principal of Zwedru Multilateral High School in Grand Gedeh County, Liberia.



**Consul Teta Banks** is vice chair of the 2009 LIHEDE 5th anniversary jubilee. He served as the Honorary Consul General of the Liberian Consulate Office in Philadelphia, USA from 1993 to 2009. She was educated at Wellesley College, Howard University, and Wayne State University the USA, and Oxford University in Great Britain. Consul Banks strongly believes that LIHEDE's efforts at creating awareness of Liberian history and education, and considers it a great honor to participate in the Jubilee, which she sees as a historic event focused on "honoring our great [Liberian] history."



**Ms. Sylvestine Payne, MSW**, is Jubilee Operations Manager and Program Chairperson of the Daughters of LIHEDE. She is a professional social worker, and owner and administrator of assisted living residential facilities located in Fayetteville and Jonesboro, two suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Payne, a graduate of Monrovia Central High School in Liberia, came to the U.S. in 1987 after spending two-years in the mass communication program at the University of Liberia. Ms. Payne eventually settled in Savannah, Georgia where she obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work from Savannah State University. She worked as a clinical social worker with the State of Georgia in Savannah for eight years before establishing her own business in 1998. She operated her business in Savannah for close to ten years before relocating to Fayetteville in 2007. Ms. Payne is a Christian and an active member of Speedwell United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. She serves as chairperson of the Church's social action committee and a member of the United Methodist Women. She is also an active member of the Liberian Community Association of Metropolitan Atlanta (LAMA), and serves as co-chairman of the association's board of directors. Ms. Payne is national president of her high school alumni association, and co-founder of Concern Women of Georgia, an all-female group providing recreational and social services to children living in Liberia and the Diaspora Liberian community in the U.S. Born in Yekepa, Nimba County, Liberia to parents hailing from Grand Bassa County, Liberia. Ms. Payne lived in Monrovia most of her life. She attended Cathedral High School from kindergarten to eighth grade and Monrovia Central High School from 9th grade through 12th grade.

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## LIHEDE 5th Anniversary Jubilee Planning Committee *(Continued)*

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**Professor K-Moses Nagbe, MA**, chairs the LIHEDE 5th Anniversary Planning Committee's sub-committee on authors and co-chairs the subcommittee on abstract. He holds a BA in English from the University of Liberia and an LLB in Law from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, a professional school of the University of Liberia. Furthermore, Professor Nagbe holds an MA in English Education from the Glassboro (Rowan) State University in New Jersey. He is past president of the University of Liberia Faculty Association and past president of the Liberia Association of Writers. In June 1994, he was featured as an African writer on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Professor Nagbe writes poetry and fiction, and has published several titles, including *Nuggets of the African Novel (With Notes on the Liberian Literary Heritage)*, *One Saturday in August*, *Fright and Flight (A Reflection on My Refugee Life in Ghana)*, *Whispers*, *Progenies of Defiance*, *Sun at Midnight*, *Wings for the Next Day*, and *A Scream in the Storm*. His multi-disciplinary interests include topics in education, literature, rhetoric, law, and media studies. He and his wife, Frances, live presently in the United States, where he continues to teach and write.



**Mr. Thomas Madison Johnson, BA**, heads LIHEDE 5th anniversary jubilee planning committee's sub-committee on social. He is assistant manager of quality assurance for liberty hardware manufacturing company in Winston Salem, North Carolina, and president and owner of Johnson Cleaning System in Greensboro, North Carolina. Mr. Johnson, a former administrative assistant to the deputy minister of administration in the Liberian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, holds a BA degree in public administration from the University of Liberia, and an AA degree in computer science from Guilford Technical College in Jamestown, North Carolina. Mr. Johnson also holds a diploma in diplomacy from the Liberian Foreign Service Institute in Monrovia, and he plans to resume in the near future his MBA studies (marketing major) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, which he had to interrupt to attend to other pressing personal matters. Mr. Johnson is a Christian, and a member of the Genesis Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is the church's assistant coordinator on African affairs.



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## Message of 2009 Jubilee Planning Committee Chair

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The theme of the 2009 LIHEDE 5th Anniversary Jubilee is, “Understanding Ourselves and our History: A Call to Unity and Collective Development in Liberia.” It is a theme that concerns all patriotic Liberians because it mandates every Liberian and friends of Liberia to reexamine the history and culture of Liberia, and to make meaning of our Liberian citizenship by recognizing the cultural and historical ties that bind us together as one people. This year’s theme also awakens us to the reality that in diversity there is oneness or unity of purpose, and it urges us to celebrate our diversity and uniqueness with deep appreciation of and respect for one another.

The 2009 LIHEDE Jubilee on Liberian education, history, culture, and national development is very crucial to peace and unity in Liberia. This is the time to put our national house in order. It is time to pledge allegiance to the Lone Star (flag) of Liberia and not to pledge to any warlords or warring or ethnic factions in Liberia. It is, in essence, a time to iron out sincerely our differences as a people who have had a civil strife and who are now ready to put our bitter experiences behind us in order to forge a bright new future for every Liberian, irrespective of ethnicity, creed, religion, and political and cultural persuasions.

The issues that will be discussed at this Jubilee are at the heart of national reconciliation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction in Liberia. Without an understanding of ourselves, with respect to our own culture and history, and, in terms of who we are, where we come from, and where we are headed, it would be foolhardy of us as a people or race to forge ahead or become forerunners of our own destiny. In addition, it would be meaningless to establish or formulate national development plans when there is no specific cultural or political blueprint to follow.

The lack of a nationally acclaimed or well publicized blue print for national development in Liberia by successive Liberian governments, and the lack of adequate cultural and historical knowledge about Liberia on the part of many Liberians have been the main problems with peace, unity, and meaningful development in Liberia. And for those of us who are culturally and historically aware, our words of wisdom have often fallen on deaf ears. Hence, it is difficult for the national leadership of Liberia to provide culturally and historically-relevant development plans and activities for the people of Liberia if the minds of our leaders are not in tune with Liberian cultural heritage.

Therefore knowing ourselves as Liberians will enable Liberian educational leaders and policymakers to draw out a culturally-relevant instructional plan and curriculum for post-conflict Liberia and provide locally-produced textbooks and instructional materials that will address holistically the educational and intellectual needs of educators and learners alike. In hindsight, this year’s jubilee theme seeks to propel every Liberian in one specific direction—to develop love for Liberia, self, and one’s fellow countrymen and women by putting the best interest of Liberia first before our individual interests, contrary to how many Liberians nowadays are putting self-interest above the interest of Liberia.

Thus, in order to reverse this negative national custom in the governance of Liberia and its people, it is imperative that we first know ourselves and our history so that we may be on the same national page and in order for us to succeed as a nation and people. But unfortunately today, we as Liberians are not on the same page because our allegiance is split among various political, social, economic, and factional interests, to the utter neglect of the overall and best interest of Liberia. This year’s LIHEDE Jubilee will be thought-provoking and free of ethnic and factional biases and prejudices because the best interest of the Liberian nation and people will be the centerpiece of discussion and genuine concern during our deliberations. I believe this year’s jubilee will also make a big difference in how we view ourselves as Liberians and how we relate to one another after the LIHEDE Jubilee has ended, because we intend to follow up with authorities in Liberia and the international community regarding the issues we will raise and discuss so that they may be fully implemented to the letter. Welcome to the 2009 LIHEDE 5th Anniversary Jubilee.

Sincerely,

Joseph T-G Gbaba, Sr., Ed.D.  
General Chair, LIHEDE 5th Anniversary Jubilee Planning Committee

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## Executive Director's Jubilee Message . . .

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On this occasion of the 5th anniversary jubilee of LIHEDE, I want to express profound thanks and appreciation to all of you for your continued support and generous contributions to the works of LIHEDE. Without your moral, financial, and professional or technical support, it would have been impossible for LIHEDE to become the strong presence it is today within the Diaspora Liberian community in the U.S., and generally in the U.S. and Liberia. I especially want to thank my wife Mary for standing by my side and supporting me throughout my leadership of LIHEDE, and to my fellow co-founders, Messrs Nat Galarea Gbessagee and Siahyonkron Nyanseor, for helping me turn an idea into a practical reality.

Indeed, when I contacted Messrs Gbessagee and Nyanseor in late 2002 to help me plan the official launch of my book, “Nyanyan Ghomanan: History, Migration, and Government of the Bassa,” I had no idea that that collaboration would have ended up in the establishment of LIHEDE. But it turned out that instead of planning only a mere book launching program, we decided to plan a symposium on “African Governance and Philosophical Thought” at which the book would be launched, since the central theme of my book dealt with the governing processes of the Bassa people of Liberia. The symposium, held for two days on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University in April 2003, was so successful and well-attended by Liberian academicians, historians, professionals, students, and ordinary persons that we decided to form an organization devoted to the promotion of education, history, and development in Liberia, since the three of us were born in Liberia and share a common Liberian heritage. So it was that we met in Mr. Gbessagee’s hotel room here in Greensboro, North Carolina on April 18, 2003 to brainstorm on the mission, goal, and scope of operation of what is today LIHEDE, and the rest is now history.

I can therefore state without hesitation that I do take pride in joining two other sons of Liberia to form LIHEDE. Though only into its 5th year of existence, LIHEDE has become what we wanted it to be—a widely recognized professional, respectable, and results-oriented organization operating in the U.S. and Liberia. This is the great honor and achievement we celebrate today. This honor or achievement is also not too surprising to us because we originally set out with much determination and zeal to succeed and make a difference in the lives of our compatriots in Liberia. And though we in LIHEDE have yet to reach the level of success we hope to achieve, there is no doubt in my mind that LIHEDE has already made a difference in the lives of Liberians in Liberia through its malaria eradication campaign, Liberian studies initiative, and related health conferences and training workshops.

Today, I would like to publicly record few of LIHEDE’ contributions to reconstruction efforts in post-conflict Liberia. Under my leadership, LIHEDE accepted the challenge in 2005 to fight malaria in Liberia, as malaria is one of the most insidious, but preventable disease that kills up to 2-3 million people worldwide. The World Health Organization estimates that an African child dies from malaria every 30 seconds, while the number of malaria-related deaths in Liberia is estimated at 21,500 annually, according to Liberian health officials. The LIHEDE malaria eradication campaign began with a symposium on malaria treatment and control on the camps of NC A&T in 2005, a national health conference in Monrovia, Liberia in 2006, and several malaria awareness workshops and seminars within African communities across the U.S. and Liberia. Eventually, a combination of these symposiums and workshops, including a letter writing campaign to U.S. leaders, resulted in Liberia’s inclusion on the list of funding recipients for malaria treatment and control under the U.S. government’s President Malaria Initiatives (PMI). The U.S. government, through the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, acknowledged LIHEDE’s role in Liberia getting PMI funding by inviting a LIHEDE delegation at the Embassy in 2006 to witness via satellite the official announcement by President George W. Bush of Liberia’s inclusion on the PMI funding list. Liberia did receive \$37.5 million under

the PMI funds, and another \$37.5 from the Global Fund for malaria treatment, control, and prevention in Liberia. LIHEDE is not a direct beneficiary of these fundings but the Liberian government and people.

Again, in 2004, LIHEDE proposed a comprehensive Liberian Studies Program that was shared with the Liberian government and leaders of higher institutions of learning in Liberia. LIHEDE later signed a memorandum of understanding each with the United Methodist University and the African Methodist Episcopal University in 2005 to begin offering a baccalaureate program in Liberian Studies, but the project is yet to materialize. However, the idea caught on and LIHEDE's Director of Education and Culture/Liberian Studies Project, Dr. Adetokunbo Borishade, was recruited by Cuttington University College in Liberia to launch a new Africana and Liberian Studies Program during the 2008-2009 academic year. One of Liberia's indigenous languages, Kpelle, is now an elective course at the University of Liberia, as LIHEDE continues to advocate for a new national curriculum in Liberia that will make the teaching of Liberian language and culture mandatory in all Liberian grade schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges, in order to foster unity, cooperation, and understanding amongst the sixteen major ethnic groups of Liberia.

All of these initiatives exemplify LIHEDE's commitment to excellence in the service of humanity, especially people in the war-ravaged country of Liberia. I especially want to express thanks and appreciation to the dedicated efforts of the men and women who make up LIHEDE, for trusting me and helping me to make yesterday's dreams become today's reality. This is certainly a cause for LIHEDE to celebrate. And with a humble sense of pride I write to acknowledge and rejoice at the collective and individual efforts of all officers, members, and sympathizers of LIHEDE that bring us to this moment—the fifth anniversary of LIHEDE. I anticipate that this alliance will last forever in love of Liberia as we continued to maintain the character, leadership, and trust that have enabled LIHEDE to achieve what it is today. I can now look to the future with you with much dynamism and commitment as we gather here today to celebrate and launch the trajectory of LIHEDE's next five to ten-year development plan. As part of that plan, LIHEDE would like to establish a special education high school in Liberia to cater to the children of Liberia ravaged by war. LIHEDE would also like to establish the first woman college in Liberia, to include a Liberia Women's Center, as well as establish the first malaria library in Liberia, along with a housing compound for LIHEDE and friends of LIHEDE.

Today, dear friends, as we celebrate LIHEDE's fifth anniversary jubilee, I want to remember everyone from my loving wife and family, the dedicated founding members, the Chairman of the Board, the talented Secretary General, and the Publicity Director, to our nurturing Daughters of Liberia, and all our dedicated members, as well as friends of LIHEDE in Liberia and in the Diaspora. I have been hugely blessed and continued to be grateful for having you as my fuels of courage, success, motivation, and strength. I am truly thrilled to be the Executive Director of LIHEDE and to have led this organization in the last five years, giving it all I have. I would like to heartily congratulate all of you for celebrating with LIHEDE. You exemplify the cadre of good human beings that LIHEDE seeks to help discover the world of oneness and knowledge, as we endeavor to find opportunity to write our own history and to contribute to a better world.

Sincerely,

Syrulwa Somah, PhD  
Executive Director, LIHEDE

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## Daughters of LIHEDE

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**Mrs. Labeth Tennema Sileaf-Varh, MA**, is chairperson of the daughters of LIHEDE, an auxiliary all-female supporting arm of LIHEDE. She is a professional communication arts counselor. She was born to Muslim parents Musa Dukuly Sirleaf and Wonnie Coff-Sirleaf in Kakata, Liberia. She is lovingly called Lady T or LV by her family and friends. She grew up in the loving arms of multiple mothers who nurtured her with care and compassion. For it can be said that a child born and raised in the Musa Dukuly Sirleaf family is bound to learn how to speak Mandingo, Kpelle, and Vai, the three Liberian languages that make up the tapestry of his family. LV's family taught her the true meanings of an extended Liberian family and the oneness necessary to bridge whatever gaps in cultural and linguistic differences in the family. And though her father, Musa Dukuly Sirleaf, whom she adored and idolized, was a dedicated Muslim, he never imposed his faith upon her, but gave she and her siblings the freedom to choose their own religious per-

suation. LV attended primary school at St. Augustine Episcopal School in Kakata, and the Apostolic Alliance (Gibi) Mission in Worhn, both in Margibi County, Liberia. She attended St. Christopher High School in Kakata, Monrovia College (MC) High School, and the Assembly of God High School (AGM) in Monrovia, where she graduated from before coming to the U.S. in pursuit of better educational and related opportunities. She holds a BA in Communication Arts from Catawba College, and a MA in Rehabilitation Counseling from Winston Salem State University in Winston Salem, North Carolina.



**Ms. Roberta Burke Williams, BA**, publicity chairperson of the Daughters of LIHEDE. She was born to the union of Robert A. Burke and Agnes Bailey Howell on June 10, 1962 in Monrovia, Liberia. She spent most of her formative childhood in Sinoe County and vacationed in Monrovia with her father's family. In 1977, at the tender age of 15, young Roberta left Liberia to come to the United States to go to school. While in Washington, DC she attended Dunbar Senior high school and commenced her higher education at the University of the District of Columbia, before completing her BBA at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. Ms. Williams married at 18 to her high school sweetheart and the union was blessed with two sons, including

David, 26, and Kolleh, 19. In 2001, the Williams adopted the newest members of their family, her aunt's 5-year old daughter Breanna from Liberia. Ms. Williams is presently working on her master's at Harrisburg University in Computer Data Warehousing and Management. Ms. Williams works for a large hospital in York, PA as an IT Software Specialist. Ms. Williams also co-chairs sub-committee on publicity of the LIHEDE 5th anniversary jubilee's Planning Committee.



**Ms. Nee Allison, MSW**, is membership co-chairperson of the Daughters of LIHEDE. She was born and raised in Monrovia, Liberia unto the union of Mr. Henry Y. Allison and Mrs. Martha Wallace-Allison. Her parents were devoted Christians who hailed from Maryland County in the southeastern region of Liberia. Ms. Allison was raised by her parents under strict Christian principles. She started her primary and secondary education in Liberia. She graduated from B. W. Harris Episcopal High School in Monrovia, the Liberian capital. She holds a BA in Management (with minor in Accounting) from the University of Liberia, and a MSW (mental health) from

Howard University in Washington, DC. Ms. Allison works formerly as a cadet with the Liberian Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, and as an analyst with the Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation (LPRC). She is a former volunteer with World Bank-sponsored SELF (Special Emergency Food Program) office in Monrovia. As a refugee in La Cote D'Ivoire, Ms. Allison volunteered with the local Red Cross, and upon arrival in the U.S. she worked with the American Red Cross Society in various capacities, including Senior Administrative Assistant to the Senior Vice President for International Services and the

Vice President for Strategic Development, Consultant to the Family Tracing Unit, Acting Regional Program Assistant and Event Planner. Currently she works as a Case Manager at Progressive Life Center in Washington, DC, a mental health organization that provides therapeutic services for children with emotional and behavioral problems.



**Mrs. Mary Moore Somah, BSW**, is a member of the Daughters of LIHEDE. She is one of the original members of LIHEDE. Mrs. Somah, her daughter Azenia, and sister Cynthia, became the first female members of LIHEDE after LIHEDE was co-founded in 2003 by her husband, Dr. Syrulwa Somah, along with Mr. Nat Galarea Gbessagee, and Mr. Siahyonkron Nyanseor. Mary has been the remarkable backbone behind her husband as he administers the affairs of LIHEDE in the capacity of executive director. Mary, a mother of four, including two special needs children, has consistently shouldered the responsibility of the family as her husband frequently travels to Liberia and cities across the United States on LIHEDE business. Mrs. Somah holds an AS pre-social work from Guilford Technical Community College in Jamestown, North Carolina, and a BSW in Social Work from Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is currently working toward her MSW (Social Work) at Winston-Salem State University. Mary cherishes her cultural roots and values, and emphasizes that family and education are priceless attributes for human development. Mary is glad to affiliate with the Daughters of LIHEDE, and it is her belief that only Liberians can set the right direction for lasting peace, national unity, professional cooperation, and development in Liberia.



**Ms. Nancy Freeman, MBA**, an immigrant from Liberia, is a member of the Daughters of LIHEDE. She relocated to the U.S. in 2002 after 24 years of administrative and managerial services to the Liberian nation and people. Ms. Freeman served as clerk typist with Booker Washington Institute; executive secretary with assistant with the Liberian Rubber Development Unit (LRDU), the Monrovia Transit Authority, and the Central Bank of Liberia, respectively. He was also secretary with the Bong Mining Company, office manager with both the Children Assistance Program and the Carlton Resources Inc. (CRI), all in Liberia. Ms. Freeman holds from the African Methodist Episcopal University in Monrovia, Liberia, and an MBA (Human Resources Management) from the University of Phoenix. She is currently working on her doctorate dissertation with the University of Phoenix. Her dissertation topic is, “The Educational Path for Liberian Women,” which seeks to examine the untold challenges and opportunities that Liberian women encountered in crossing the cultural and traditional borders of a male-dominated Liberian society in order to attain higher education.



**Mrs. Patricia Jabbeh Wesley, PhD**, is Advisor to the Daughters of LIHEDE. She immigrated with her family to the United States during the Liberian civil war. She is the author of three full length books of poetry: *The River is Rising*, (Autumn House Press, Pittsburgh, PA 2007) *Becoming Ebony* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2003) and *Before the Palm Could Bloom: Poems of Africa* (New issues Press Poetry, Michigan, 1998). She has published numerous poems and non-fiction memoir articles in several American and international literary magazines and anthologies. Dr. Wesley is working on her fourth book of poetry, a children’s book, and a civil war memoir. She has given hundreds of poetry readings and talks over the years and most recently throughout the United States, in Spanish America, Asia and Africa. Patricia is the recipient of several literary awards and nominations, including, the 2002 Crab Orchard Award for *Becoming Ebony*, the Anisfield-Wolf Award Nomination for *The River is Rising*, Individual Artist Awards from the Kalamazoo Foundation, among others. She has a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and English.

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## Purpose and Goals of LIHEDE 2009 5th Anniversary Jubilee

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LIHEDE is hosting a two-day jubilee in Greensboro, North Carolina from August 21 to 22, 2009 as part of activities marking its 5th anniversary celebrations. The Jubilee is devoted to uncovering the ethnic and linguistic links of Liberians, and how these links can be harnessed to manifest lasting peace, unity, reconciliation, and development in Liberia. Specifically, participants at the jubilee will look at the history, migration patterns, interethnic cooperation, linguistic tongues, and social, political, and legal institutions of the various ethnic groups of Liberia. LIHEDE believes that by bringing Liberians and friends of Liberia together under one roof to discuss the history, culture, and tradition of Liberia, it will be creating an enabling environment through which Liberians will endeavor to learn more about themselves and cultivate a new sense of nationalism that propels Liberia's socioeconomic developments and rightful place in the world.

By dwelling on the theme, "Understanding Ourselves and Our History: A Call to Unity & Collective Development in Liberia," the LIHEDE jubilee is endeavoring to open a new avenue for fruitful dialogue and cooperation amongst Liberians and friends of Liberia everywhere, in the search for lasting peace and stability in Liberia after fourteen years of a devastating civil war from 1989 to 2003. It is anticipated that jubilee participants will help sort out ways for Liberians and friends of Liberia to participate more actively in current reconstruction efforts in Liberia, as post-civil war Liberia demands a new era of individual cooperation in a new political dispensation wherein success and progress will begin with the collective showcasing of the talents of all Liberian in finding practical solutions to the many myths, misrepresentations, and misinterpretations associated with Liberian history and indigenous culture. It is also anticipated that jubilee participants will help create through their presentations and deliberations a legacy of immeasurable treasure of knowledge for current and present generations that will facilitate the writing of an inclusive Liberian history and the promotion of national unity, peace, and cooperation in Liberia.

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## Brief History of LIHEDE

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### Background

LIHEDE was founded in Greensboro, North Carolina in April 2003 by Mr. Nat Galarea Gbessagee, Mr. Siahyonkron Nyanseor, and Dr. Syrulwa Somah, based on their common desires to inform and educate both the American public and greater Diaspora Liberian about the rich cultural heritage and history of Liberia. The collective goals and ideals of LIHEDE are to preserve and promote Liberian history and culture, as LIHEDE is as much an organization for change as it is an intellectual enlightenment movement.

### Who We Are

LIHEDE provides national development-oriented research on matters of history, education, agriculture, health, investment, environment, safety health, agriculture, strategy, politics, security and peace in Liberia. Its publications and policy recommendations are directed at a number of audiences, including Liberian government decision-makers, in military and civilian life, investors, the diplomatic corps, the press, the academic community, the broader public and leaders of Liberian communities in the Diaspora. LIHEDE also sponsors conferences, workshops, lectures, symposia and forums for international and local audiences, bringing together leading experts in the US, Liberia and other parts of the world. LIHEDE has developed cooperative relations with leading strategic research organizations, researchers, and Liberian organizations at home and abroad

### What We Stand For

Our Vision is clear and our motives are certain: LIHEDE seeks to contribute to the advancement of cultural heritage, history, education, development, peace, and security by conducting policy-relevant research on strategic subjects, particularly as they relate to history, education and development of Liberia. Our vision consists of people joining our effort as researchers and activist-minded citizens, dedicated sons and daughters of Liberia and friends of Liberia, and informed groups who do understand what is at stake for all Liberians and friends of Liberia who are willing to take the new Liberia to the next higher level of national development.

### Affiliation

LIHEDE is a non-partisan and non-profit organization, with an allegiance to the Republic of Liberia. It signed a MOU with African Environmental Watch, Inc.

### Leading-Edge Research

Liberian studies, military for the new Liberia, culture-driven malaria program, and tourism in the new Liberia, using garbage for energy, ethanol development, fake drug, agriculture and independency: -- on all these issues and more LIHEDE's voice has been heard and been prescient.

### Global Research

LIHEDE associates have spoken at conferences and symposia in several states in the US, Europe and Africa. Its experts have been interviewed many of times in all of Liberian newspapers and radio stations, from Radio Veritas and Star Radio, to LBS to Radio Buchanan, from Radio Gbarnga to King FM/Television. LIHEDE's associate is regular columnists for The Forum, The Perspective, FrontPage, LIMANY, Liberian Times, News Vision, Nordic News. LIHEDE has conducted specialized research on malaria impact of democracy in Liberia.



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

August 18, 2009

The Liberian History, Education,  
and Development, Inc.  
2285 Rothwood Acres Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27406

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the State of North Carolina, it is a pleasure to offer warm greetings to everyone attending the Liberian History, Education, and Development (LIHEDE) Jubilee conference and to congratulate you on your 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is my privilege to join you in celebrating this special occasion.

North Carolina is proud to be home to an organization that is focused on public education, culture promotion, health and wellness and national development efforts in Liberia. The LIHEDE is an outstanding association with many accomplishments dedicated to improving the lives of others.

Best wishes for a wonderful conference and again, congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bev Perdue".

Bev Perdue

ABJ





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## Day 1 Friday, August 21, 2009

(Location: Alumni Event Center, NC A&T State University, 200 N Benbow Rd., Greensboro, NC)

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### ~ Part I (Registration) ~

8:30 Registration (Main Lobby, Alumni Event Center)

### ~ Part II - (Jubilee Opening Program) ~

8:55 Official Opening of Jubilee

Dr. Joseph T. G. Gbaba, Sr., General Chair, LIHEDE 5th Anniversary Jubilee Planning Committee

9:02 Liberian National Anthem ... .. Guests and Participants (see page 32)

9:06 Invocation by Rev. Dr. Gregory Headen, Pastor, Genesis Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC

9:22 Liberian Cultural Drums Display by Mr. David Kaipu and the Liberian Musical Voice

9:32 Introduction & Jubilee Overview ... .. Mr. Nat Galarea Gbessagee, Secretary General, LIHEDE

9:44 Poetry ... .. by Mr. Daries Pandy, African Student Association, NC A&T State University

9:47 - 10:20 Special Welcome Remarks

9:47 Dr. Harold Martin, Chancellor, NC A&T State University

9:55 Dr. Ben Obinero Uwakweh, Dean of the School of Technology, NC A&T State University

10:00 Ms. Yvonne Johnson, Mayor of the City of Greensboro, NC

10:06 Hon. Nathaniel Barnes, Liberian Ambassador to U.S. (key to City of Greensboro)

10:11 NC Representative Earl Jones

10:14 Mr. Zumo Kollie, General Chairman, or Representative of Association of United Liberians in the Triad, Inc.

10:18 Mr. James Y. Hunder, President or Representative of Liberian Organization of the Piedmont, Inc.

10:22 - 10:27 Poetry Reading ("*Home, Sweet Home*") ... .. by Mr. Siahyonkron Nyanseor

10:30 - 10:40 Jubilee Goals & Recognition of Guests—Dr. Syrulwa Somah, Executive Director, LIHEDE

10:42 Vote of Thanks by MC and Transition to presentation and panel discussion sessions of jubilee

### Jubilee Master and Mistress of Ceremony:

- Mrs. Labeth Sirleaf-Varh, Chair, Daughters of LIHEDE (DOL) ... .. Friday Formal Jubilee Opening Session
- Mr. Nat Galarea Gbessagee, Secretary General, LIHEDE ... .. Friday Morning Session of Presentations/Panel Discussions
- Mrs. Carley Jagbadai-Fully, Daughters of LIHEDE ... .. Friday Afternoon Session of Presentations/Panel Discussions
- Mr. Robert Gledegbem Garguah, Sr., Broker/Owner, Trade Town Realty, LLC. Atlanta, Georgia ... .. Saturday Morning Session of Presentations/Panel Discussions
- Dr. Joseph T. G. Gbaba, LIHEDE ... .. Saturday Afternoon session of Presentations/Panel Discussions
- Ms. Nancy Freeman, Daughters of LIHEDE ... .. Friday Evening "Taste of Liberia" Dinner
- Mr. Siahyonkron Nyanseor, Treasurer, LIHEDE ... .. Saturday Night LIHEDE Awards Dinner & Ball
- Ms. Roberta Williams, Daughters of LIHEDE ... .. All-Day Saturday Workshops for Children

~ Part III ~

*(Presentation & Discussion of Jubilee Symposium Topics -- Presenters, Facilitator, & participants)*

**Session I—1st Thematic Session on “Who is a Liberian?”  
(Understanding Ourselves and Our History)**

*(Location: Alumni Event Center, NC A&T State University, 200 N Benbow Rd., Greensboro, NC)*

- 10:50**    **Presenter 1:** Dr. Joseph Tomooh-Garlodeyh Gbaba, Sr., Liberian Playwright & Artist/Scholar  
**Topic:** *Krahn Mahnuanh: A Qualitative Research Study on the Krahns of Liberia*
  
- 11:07**    **Presenter 2:** Mrs. Elizabeth Selee Mulbah, R.N, MS, Commissioner, Governance Commission, Republic of Liberia  
**Topic:** *Shaping of the Liberian Identity*
  
- 11:24**    **Presenter 3:** Dr. Syrulwa Somah, Executive Director of LIHEDE & Associate Professor, NC A& T State University  
**Topic:** *The Migration of Liberian Ethnic Groups*
  
- 11:41**    **Coffee Break Presenters and Participants**
  
- 11:55**    **Presenter 4:** Mr. James Butty, MA, co-host and managing editor of “Daybreak Africa,” Voice of America (VOA)  
**Topic:** *Role of Journalism in Promoting National Identity: A Case Study of Traditional and Western Journalism*
  
- 12:15**    **Thematic Panel/Q & A Session: “Who is A Liberian?”**  
Facilitator ... .. Dr. Melvin Mason, former President of Cuttington University College, Suakoko, Liberia  
Panelists ... .. Ms. Nyankor Matthew, Ms. Vickie Ward, Mr. Asumana Jabateh Randolph  
Resource Persons ... .. All 1st thematic session presenters  
*(mostly to provide answers to questions on individual presentations but may also ask questions or make comments).*
  
- 12:50**    **Lunch Break**

**NOTE:** Each presentation is 15 minutes; panel discussion is 30 minutes, lunch break is 60 minutes (1 hour), and coffee break is 10 minutes except where otherwise noted in the program.

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## Session II – 2nd Thematic Session on National Unity, Peace, and Individual Empowerment in Liberia

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- 1:55**    **Presenter 1:** Mr. Emmanuel G. K. George, Assistant Lecturer in International Relations, Babcock University, Nigeria  
**Topic:** *Friend-in-Interest: America's Relations with Liberia during the Liberian Civil War*
- 2:12**    **Presenter 2:** Mr. Eli Tubman, Washington, DC  
**Topic:** *Edward Wilmot Blyden: A Pan-Africanist Par Excellence!*
- 2:29**    **Presenter 3:** Ms. Nyankor Matthew, MS, Pan-Africanist & Advocate for the Preservation of Traditional Culture in Liberia  
**Topic:** *Traditional Leadership And Democratic Governance In Indigenous Liberia*
- 2:45**    **Coffee Break**
- 3:00**    **Presenter 4:** Dr. Augustine Konneh, Professor of History at Clark Atlanta University and Spellman College in Georgia  
**Topic:** *Liberian Mandingo and National Integration in Liberia*
- 3:17**    **Presenter 5:** Mr. Ahmed K. Sirleaf II, Program Associate, Special Projects Program, The Advocates for Human Rights USA  
**Topic:** *Peace and Reconciliation in Liberia: A Look at the 2009 TRC Report*
- 3:35**    Thematic Panel/ Q & A Session: Peace and Reconciliation in Liberia.  
Facilitator ... .. Dr. D. Elwood Dunn  
Panelists ... .. Ms. Nat Gbessagee, Mr. Dennis Jah, Ms. Vicky Ward  
Resource Persons ... .. All 2nd thematic session presenters  
*(mostly to provide answers to questions on individual presentations but may also ask questions or make comments)*
- 4:10**    Vote of Thanks and Announcement by MC

~ Part III ~

*(Evening of Sumptuous Dinner and Movie)*

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**Session I – “Taste of Liberia” Dinner**

*(Location: Genesis Baptist Church, 2812 E. Bessemer Avenue, Greensboro, NC)*

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6:15	Meet & Greet	LIHEDE & Guests
6:30	Welcome & Introduction	Mrs. Labeth Sirleaf Varh, Chairperson, Daughters of LIHEDE
6:40	Invocation	Rev. Linwood Caldwell, Genesis Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC
6:45	Poetry Reading	"Food We Eat" by Mrs. Minnie Battle Mayes, Founding Director, Office of International Programs (OIP), NC A&T
6:00	<b>Dinner is Served</b>	<i>(Guests and Participants)</i>
6:45	Introduction of Speaker	Ms. Sylvestine Payne, Jubilee Operations Manager
7:00	Keynote Speaker	Mr. Nat G. Gbessagee, Secretary General of LIHEDE and former Director of Public Affairs, Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, Monrovia, Liberia
7:25	Poetry Reading	“African Drum” by Ms. Barbara Kalley, Fayetteville HS, Georgia
7:30	Drum Presentation	Mr. David Kaipu and the Liberian Musical Voice
7:40	Special Remarks	Mr. Peter Ballah, Liberian Artist
7:50	Dance Performance	Dr. Clarice Ford-Kulah, Cultural Dancer
8:00	Vote of Thanks and Announcement by MC	
8:10	Singing of “Lone Star Forever”	All participants <i>(see page 31)</i>
	<b>Mistress of Ceremony</b>	Ms. Nancy Freeman, Daughters of LIHEDE

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**Session II – Movie Time: “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”**

*(Location: Genesis Baptist Church, 2812 E. Bessemer Avenue, Greensboro, NC)*

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8:30	Showing of “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”	<i>(Church Sanctuary)</i>
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## Day 2 (Saturday, August 22, 2009)

*(Location: Genesis Baptist Church, 2812 E. Bessemer Avenue, Greensboro, NC)*

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### ~ Part I (Registration) ~

8:30 Registration (*Genesis Baptist Church Fellowship Hall*)

### ~ Part II ~

*(Presentation & Discussion of Jubilee Symposium Topics -- Presenters, Facilitator, & participants)*

8:35 Overview of Jubilee Symposium/Themes and Rules by MC

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## Session I-3rd Thematic Session On Traditional Medicine, Health, and the Environment

*(Location: Genesis Baptist Church, 2812 E. Bessemer Avenue, Greensboro, NC)*

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- 8:40 **Presenter 1:** Lawrence A. Zumo, MD, Attending Neurologist, Prince George's and Laurel Regional Hospitals, Maryland and Board Chairman, LIHEDE  
**Topic:** Medicinal Plants and Healing Traditions in Liberia: Some Biochemical Correlates
- 8:57 **Presenter 2:** Mr. Morris Koffa, Executive Director, Africa Environment Watch, USA  
**Topic:** Environmental Imperil: What is the way out?
- 9:14 **Presenter 3:** Batrum N. Kulah, M.D., Family Medicine Practitioner and MBA Student in Health Care Management at Auburn University in Alabama.  
**Topic:** Health Care Services in Developing Liberia
- 9:31 **Presenter 4:** Dr. Charlene Monahan Spearen, Program Director, University of South Carolina's Arts Institute and Poet in Residence, Columbia Museum of Art, South Carolina  
**Topic:** Authenticity - Following the Shadows of Martha Ann Rick  
(a Southern African-American female slave and her journey to Liberia)
- 9:48 **Coffee Break**
- 10:00 **Presenter 5:** Dr. Donyeong Kim, Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy, North Carolina Central University and Dr. Randall Kramer, Professor, Duke University  
**Topic:** A Decision Analytic Approach to Assessing Policy Tradeoffs in Malaria Control in Liberia
- 10:17 **Presenter 6:** Dr. Charles Ford, Dean and Professor, Department of Arts and Sciences, Winston State University, NC  
**Topic:** Employing Communication Technologies To Meet Development Challenges in Liberia

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## Thematic Session on Traditional Medicine, Health & the Environment *(Continued)*

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**10:41**    **Presenter 7:** Rev. Dr. Samuel Reeves, Senior Pastor, Providence Baptist Church, Liberia  
**Topic:** *Western and Traditional Liberian Religion*

**10:51**    Thematic Panel/ Q & A Session:

Facilitator ... .. Mr. Siahyonkron Nyanseor of LIHEDE

Panelists: ... .. Mrs. Adele Tanyi, of ISEC International Inc., and Mr. Sam Togba Slewion

Resource Persons: ... .. All 2nd Thematic Session Presenters

*(mostly to provide answers to questions on individual presentations but may also ask questions or make comments)*

**11:22**    Vote of Thanks and Announcement by MC

**11:25**    **Coffee Break (20 minutes)**

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## Session II–4th Thematic Session: Women Empowerment and Diaspora Liberians Involvement in Reconstructing Liberia

*(Location: Genesis Baptist Church, 2812 E. Bessemer Avenue, Greensboro, NC)*

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**11:50**    **Presenter 1:** Ms. Robtel Neajai Pailey, MA, Special Assistant, Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, Republic of Liberia  
**Topic:** *A Diaspora Returns: Liberia Then and Now*

**12:07**    **Presenter 2:** Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, Antioch University, USA  
**Topic:** *The Emotional Toll of Malaria: Voices of Liberian Women*

**12:20**    **Lunch Break**

**1:25**    **Presenter 3:** Ms. T. Nancy Freeman, Doctoral Student, University of Phoenix, USA  
**Topic:** *Historical Women of Liberia*

**1:42**    **Presenter 4:** Ms. Nana Kpaan Anukam, MSW,  
Professional Social Worker and Graduate Student in Public Health, Walden University, USA  
**Topic:** *Dewion (Dei) People of Liberia*

**2:00**    **Presenter 5:** Dr. W. Joye Hardiman, Founding Faculty of The Institute for Cultural Reconnection, USA  
**Topic:** *Methodologies for When, Where and How We Re-Enter Africa*

**2:17**    **Presenter 6:** Ms. LueRachelle Brim Atkins, AAKEWO (African- American Kenyan Women Reconnect), USA  
**Topic:** *Sustainable Joint Ventures and Women's Empowerment*

**2:35**    **Coffee Break**

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## Thematic Session on Women Empowerment & Diaspora Liberians *(Continued)*

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2:50 Presenter7: Ms. Vickie Ward, MA, Executive Director, Victor E. Ward Foundation, USA

Topic: Promoting Science Education for Liberian Girls

3:07 Presenter8: Dr. Clarice Ford-Kulah, Professor of Education, Georgia Rerimeter College, Owner and Administrator, Bethesda Christian Academy and Early Literacy Academy 1 & 2

Topic: The Role of Education In The Development of Liberia

3:25 Thematic Panel/ Q & A Session:

Women Empowerment and Diaspora Liberians Involvement in Reconstructing Liberia

Facilitator ..... Nat Gbessagee

Panelists ..... Dr. Layli Philips and Dr. Vera Tolbert

Resource Persons... All 4th thematic session presenters

*(mostly to provide answers to questions on individual presentations but may also ask questions or make comments)*

4:00 Vote of Thanks and Announcement by MC

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## Session III: Resolution Committee Meeting

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4:02 Coffee Break for Resolution Committee Members

4:15 Resolution Committee Meeting *(30-45 minutes)* .....Chaired by Dr. D. Elwood Dunn  
*(Members include Mr. Yancy Peter Flab and Mr. Sam Togba Slewion. Other committee members will be announced by MC or the Executive Director)*

~ Part III ~  
*(Poetry and Cultural Immersion workshops)*

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**Session I: Cultural Immersion Workshops for Children**

*(Location: Genesis Baptist Church, 2812 E. Bessemer Avenue, Greensboro, NC)*

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- 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** ..... Topic/Activity
- Poetry Workshop, ..... with Dr. Charlene Spearen, Program Director, University of South Carolina's Arts Institute and Poet in Residence, Columbia Museum of Art, South Carolina - **Room 1**
  
  - Storytelling Workshop ..... with Dr. Joseph T. G. Gbaba, Liberian Playwright shares fascinating traditional stories - **Room 2**
  
  - Liberian Folklore and Childhood songs ..... with Labeth Varh and the Daughters of LIHEDE, Liberian Women share their childhood experiences - **Room 3**
  
  - Traditional Dance Workshop ..... with Dr. Clarice Ford-Kulah, Cultural Dance Artist and Owner/Administrator, Early Childhood Learning Center, Decatur, Georgia - **Room 4**
  
  - Drums and African Rhythms .....with Mr. David Kaipu, Professional Drummer and the Liberian Musical Voice - **Room 202** (second floor)

*(Workshops will be held simultaneously with Jubilee presentations but in a separate room one after another)*



~ Part IV ~  
(Saturday Evening Awards Dinner & Ball)

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**Session I: LIHEDE Awards Dinner & Ball Program**

(Location: Alumni Event Center, NC A&T State University, 200 N Benbow Rd., Greensboro, NC)

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- 6:15** Meet & Greet ..... LIHEDE and Guests
- 7:00** Welcome and formal Opening..... Mr. Siahyonkron Nyanseor, Treasurer of LIHEDE and MC
- 7:05** Invocation..... Rev. William Pennoh Ross, Assistant Pastor, Goler Memorial AME Church, Winston Salem, North Carolina
- 7:07** Special Opening Remarks  
a) Dr. Sullivan Welborne, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, NC A&T State University  
b) H.E. Nathaniel Barnes, Liberian Ambassador to the U.S, Liberian Embassy, Wash. DC
- 7:17** Poetry Reading..... by Dr. Charlene Spearen
- 7:25** **Dinner Is Served**
- 7:40** Dance Performance..... Dr. Clarice Ford-Kulah
- 7:50** Cultural Drumming Experience ..... Mr. David Kaipu and the Liberian Musical Voice
- 8:05** Introduction of Guest Speaker..... Ms. Sylvestine Payne, Jubilee Operations Manager
- 8:12** Guest Speaker..... Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga of Cultural Reconnection
- 8:30** Traditional Liberian Sargo Selection.....Sargo Ethnic Singers of North Carolina
- 8:40** Poetry Reading..... "In Youth" by Miss Danielle Doe Payne
- 8:50** LIHEDE Status Report ..... Dr. Syrulwa Somah, Executive Director
- 9:15** Musical Selection ..... by Mr. Robert Bombo (*a.k.a. Black Diamond*)
- 9:30** Presentation of LIHEDE 2009 Awards  
1) Diaspora Service Award presented by Mrs. Labeth Sirleaf Varh, assisted by Mrs. Mary Moore Somah  
2) Community Leadership Award presented by Mr. Sam Togba Slewion, assisted by Ms. Nee Allison  
3) Educational Service Award, presented by Ms. Sylvestine Payne

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## LIHEDE Awards Dinner & Ball Program *(Continued)*

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- 4) Environmental Service Award, presented by Dr. Syrulwa Somah, assisted Ms. Roberta Williams
- 5) Humanitarian Service Award presented by Mr. Garnett Gbamokollie of LIHEDE
- 6) Distinguished Service Award, presented by Mr. Yancy Peter Flah, LIHEDE Board Member
- 7) LIHEDE Heritage Award, presented by Mr. Nat Gbessagee, assisted by Ms. Nancy Freeman

**10:35** Musical Selection ... .. by Mr. Robert Bombo *(a.k.a. Black Diamond)*

**10:45** Special Presentations

- a) Daughters of LIHEDE
- b) LIHEDE Founders

**11:10** Vote of Thanks ... .. Mr. Thomas Johnson, Jubilee Social Committee Chair

**11:15** Grand March ... .. DJ Music and Dancing

**Master of Ceremony** ... .. Mr. Siahyonkron Nyanseor

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### Day 3 (Sunday, August 23, 2009)

*(Location: 2285 Rothwood Acres Drive, Greensboro, NC)*

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**9:20** Sunday Brunch at the home of the Executive Director and wife, Mary, for Jubilee guests awaiting their departure schedules

**11:00** Participate in Sunday Morning Worship Service at Genesis Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Gregory Headen and Congregation (Optional)

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## Alphabetical Listing of Honorees by Awards Category

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### **LIHEDE 2009 Community Leadership Award**

- a) Mr. J. Shiwoh Kamara, president of the Liberian Association of Pennsylvania (LAP)
- b) Mr. Walter B. Skinner, president of the Liberian Association of Metropolitan Atlanta (LAMA)

### **LIHEDE 2009 Diaspora Service Award**

- a) LIMANY (The Liberian Mandingo Association of New York), a Liberian media, education, and social service organization based out of New York
- b) Advocates for Human Rights, a Minnesota-based human rights organization with professional ties to Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and heavy involvement with immigration advocacy for Liberians in the U.S.
- c) The Liberian Forum, Inc., a Liberian media company based out of Canada that provide free media services to the Diaspora Liberian Community

### **LIHEDE 2009 Distinguished Service Award**

- a) Rev. Dr. Bennie Dee Warner, former vice president of Republic of Liberia
- b) Rev. Dr. John Falconer & Family, an American family with heavy involvement in health, education, and religious services in Liberia
- c) Hon. Varbah Gayflor, Minister of Gender Affairs and Development, Republic of Liberia

### **LIHEDE 2009 Educational Service Award**

- a) Ms. Vickie Ward, executive director of the Victor E. Ward Foundation
- b) Rev. Maxine Carter and Dr. Horlin Carter are staunch supporters of LIHEDE, and owners of a trust fund from which an amount of seven thousand dollars has been committed at maturity to assist LIHEDE in the construction of a public library in Liberia.

### **LIHEDE 2009 Environmental Service Award**

- a) Mr. Morris Koffa, Executive Director, African Environmental Watch
- b) Mr. Ben Turtur Donnie, first Director of the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency

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## Honorees by Awards Category *(Continued)*

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### **LIHEDE 2009 Heritage Award**

- a) Mr. David Kaipu, Professional Liberian Drummer and Cultural Promoter
- b) Mr. Jallah K. K. Kamara, Former Director-General, Liberian Bureau of Culture and Tourism
- c) Mr. Peter Ballah, Leader and Performing Artist, Liberian National Cultural Troupe

### **LIHEDE 2009 Humanitarian Service Award**

- a) Ms. Patricia Quinn, a private citizen who donated caskets to help with burial of seven Liberian fire victims in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- b) Dr. Batrum Kulah, a Liberian-born U.S. medical doctor who arranged free medical assistance for a Liberian (no relations) with facial deformity to travel to the U.S. for treatment
- c) Rev. Dr. Gregory Headen, Pastor, Genesis Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC

### **LIHEDE 2009 Jubilee Certificate of Appreciation Recipients**

- a) Ms. Wanda Watford of NC A&T State University
- b) Genesis Baptist Church of Greensboro
- c) Dr. Clarice Ford-Kulah of Georgia
- d) Dr. Charlene Spearen of South Carolina
- e) Dr. Joseph T-G Gbaba, Sr., General Chair of Jubilee
- f) Consul Teta Banks, Co-Chair of Jubilee
- g) Ms. Sylvestine Payne, Operations Manager of Jubilee
- h) Mrs. Labeth Sirleaf-Varh, Chair of Daughters of LIHEDE
- i) Ms. Roberta Burke Williams, Daughters of LIHEDE and Jubilee Planning Committee
- j) North Carolina A&T State University
- k) The Sarpo Ethnic Singers, NC
- l) Mr. Robert Sayon Morris of Liberian Media and Advertising Services
- m) Mr. Gardea Jaywhehgar, Webmaster
- n) Ms. Suzanna Ochola, Youth Leader

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## Pictorial of Individual Honorees

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Honoree for Community  
Leadership Award



*Mr. Walter B. Skinner*

Honoree for Community  
Leadership Award



*Mr. J. Shivoh Kamara*

Honoree for Environmental  
Service Award



*Mr. Morris M. Koffa*

Honoree for Environmental  
Service Award



*Mr. Ben Turtur Donnie*

Honoree for National Service Award



*Bishop Bennie Dee Warner*

Honoree for Emerging Artist Award



*Mr. Robert Bombo  
(a.k.a. Black Diamond)*

Honoree for Heritage Award



*Hon. Varbah Gayflor*

Honoree for Educational  
Service Award



*Ms. Vickie Ward*

Honoree for Heritage Award



*Mr. David Kaiju*

## Pictorial of Individual Honorees *(continued)*

Honoree for Humanitarian  
Service Award



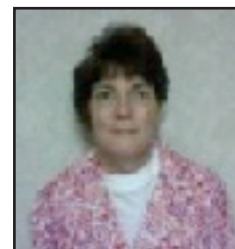
*Dr. Batrum Kulah*

Honorees for National  
Service Award



*Rev. Dr. John Falconer & Family*

Honorees for Humanitarian  
Service Award



*Mrs. Patricia Quinn*

Honorees for Humanitarian  
Service Award



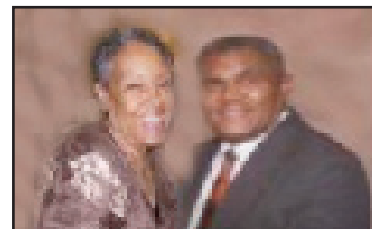
*Mrs. Dorothea Headen and  
Rev. Dr. Gregory Headen*

Honorees for Humanitarian  
Service Award



*Mrs. Sharon Suddub*

Honorees for Humanitarian  
Service Award



*Rev. Maxcine Carter and  
Ret. Col., Dr. Horlin Carter*

## List of Institution Honorees

Honoree for Diaspora  
Service Award



*The Liberian Forum, Inc.*

Honoree for Diaspora  
Service Award

*(Logo Unavailable)*

*LIMANY*

Honoree for Diaspora  
Service Award



*Advocates for Human Rights*

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Mission  
establishing  
in  
**Rivercess,**  
Liberia

**Congratulate LIHEDE on its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee**

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## The Lone Star Forever

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*(A Liberian National Song)*



When freedom raised her glowing form  
on Montserrado's verdant height,  
She set within the doom of night,  
'midst low ring stars and thunderstorms  
the star of liberty - and seizing from the  
waking morn, its burnished shield of golden flame  
she lifted in her proud name  
and raise a people long forlorn  
to noble destiny

### REFRAIN

The Lone Star forever!  
The Lone Star forever!  
O long may it float over land  
and over sea.  
Desert it, no never!  
Uphold it, forever!  
O shout for the Lone Star banner,  
All hail.



---

## The Liberian National Anthem

---

### I

All hail, Liberia, hail!

All hail, Liberia, hail!

This glorious land of liberty

Shall long be ours.

Though new her name

Green be her fame

And mighty be her powers

And mighty be her powers

### II

In joy and gladness

With our hearts united

We'll shout the freedom

Of a race benighted

Long live Liberia, happy land!

A home of glorious liberty

By God's command!

A home of glorious liberty

By God's command!



### III

All hail, Liberia, hail!

All hail, Liberia, hail!

In union strong success is sure

We cannot fail!

With God above

Our rights to prove

We will o'er all prevail

We will o'er all prevail

### IV

With heart and hand

Our country's cause defending

We'll meet the foe

With valour unpretending

Long live Liberia, happy land!

A home of glorious liberty

By God's command!

A home of glorious liberty

By God's command

---

~ *General Acknowledgement* ~

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*The Executive Officers, Board of Directors, and Members of  
Liberian History, Education & Development, Inc. (LIHEDE)*

*Extend Heartfelt Thanks and Appreciation To You for making  
2009 5th Anniversary Jubilee A Great Success*

*Please Come Again to participate in future LIHEDE Jubilees and Symposiums.  
Please visit [www.libede.org](http://www.libede.org) for LIHEDE activities*

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~ *Special Acknowledgements* ~

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**Caterers**

*Wiah & Willy Catering Services of Detroit, Michigan  
Paulette Douglas Catering Services of Greensboro, North Carolina  
Women of Greensboro Catering Services, Greensboro, North Carolina*

**Artists and Performers**

*Black Diamond and Dancers • Drummer David Kaipu  
Traditional Dancer, Dr. Clarice Ford-Kulah  
Sarpo Ethnic Group Singers*

**Jubilee Program and Flyer Designers**

*Ms. Roberta Burke Williams  
Mr. Nat Galarea Gbessagee  
Ms. Wanda Watford*

**Jubilee Planners and Managers**

*Dr. Joseph T-G Gbaba, Sr. • Consul Teta Banks • Ms. Sylvestine Payne*

**Transportation/Hospitality Committee and Daughters of LIHEDE**

*Mrs. Labeth Sirleaf-Varb • Mrs. Mary Somah • Mr. Thomas Johnson*

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