

INGA Association

Fall 2007

Inside this issue:

Introductory Message & Notes	1
Independence Day	1
Conferences	2
Music & Food Fashion	2
Recognition The BBQ/Picnic	3
Future Events Finances	4
Communication	4

Introductory Message & Notes

Greetings! Members of the INGA community started the year 2007 in Oakland while celebrating the New Year eve. Then in February, a General Assembly meeting was held in San Jose/Campbell city. At the General Assembly meeting, the Board of Directors presented to members the 2007 activities plan and operating budget for the year.

The general assembly decided that a sound fiscal discipline was needed by putting some spending constraints in 2007. Thus a reduction in the number of community activities was

voted by members. The 2007 INGA activities were reduced to: Independence Day, Labor Day Picnic/BBQ, Election Day, and New Year eve. Members also expressed their genuine interest to see the community doing some kind of gesture to welcoming new comers, helping members in need, and assisting members who lost their loved ones back home when organizing something here.

In the meeting members insisted that the Independence Day celebration should be given more weight among the other events since the

majority of our members are Congolese. It's a great opportunity to go back to our roots and our origin in brief by exposing our Congolese culture. To many people, the Independence Day is an opportunity to expose our US born children to our very diverse and rich culture and ultimately share it with our



Executive Board of Directors

Delphin Kyubwa
President

N'Dombele Nkunku
Vice President

Annie Zombil
Treasurer

Thierry Mukaz
General Secretary

Calvert Balumbu
Assistant General Secretary

Manu Kapapa
Public Relations Officer

Valy Webster
Assistant Public Relations Officer

Independence Day

This year, the Independence Day theme was 2007 Congolese cultural awareness. The event had two parts: the first one was conference - discussion on various subject of interested to our members. The conference was followed by

Congolese model fashion show and Congolese drums. The second part was the traditional Congolese independence celebration with world-class Congolese music and dance led by Calvert Balumbu as DJ.

"Serving on the Board of Directors or Regional Council is a voluntary civic duty and a community commitment to honor"

Conferences

The subjects went from: health care awareness, Congo-history, and business development in Congo, Information Technology, politic and social transitions in Congo:

1. Institutional Stability in Congo-Zaire: National Reconstruction Historical Benchmarks. Mr Sylvain Mbumba Tshikoji;
2. Congolese Diaspora: Awareness and Action for Development in the

DRC. Papa Fungula Ngondji;

3. Topicality in Public health: Arterial Hypertension, The Silent Killer. Dr. Salima Mutima;
4. Policies for Development of Tourist Industry in DRC. Mr. Mathias Mulengwa ;
5. Information Technology and telecommunications: Contribution of the Diaspora and Prospects for the Development. Mr. Delphin B. Kyubwa.



Music & Congolese Food

Music...

The music first started with the Congolese traditional drums by Joel and Jamie Bulaya with the occasional intervention of Axel Bakisi animated this portion of the evening with the rhythm of the Congolese drums.

As always, Congolese delicious food was served to all. Maman Zombil shined in a remarkable sense of organizing and coordinating the foods. A team of ladies helped serving the foods and the distribution of the exotic foods went very smooth.

Special thanks go to the following members for their help to make this

event successful:

Maman Pierrette Luamba, Papa Costa, Lisette Munung, Françoise Bulaya, Alice Bisimwa, Maman Mapassa, Leandra Mukaz, Robert

Thiunza, Baudouin Bulaya, Papa Fungula, Shakadi and Kwetambo, Malilo Kapapa, Amani Kyubwa, and Joel Bulaya.

Many members were grateful to Thierry Mukaz who was busy all day transporting people from the parking lot to the event's place. It was really a group's effort that made it possible.

Food...

Fashion

This year a special accent was put on the fashion element of our culture. This was a chance to see clearly the diversity of skills that resides in our community in Northern California. A fantastic fashion show of Young Congolese Models led by Esther Djuma was applauded by all. It was a combination of Congolese and some African music accompanying the parade of African Models wearing Congolese modern designed costumes. Our sister Esther demonstrated her ability and skill to adapt the original Congolese fashion to the modern culture in West.



“A decision is made with the brain. A commitment is made with the heart. Thus a commitment is much deeper and more binding than

Recognition

We had the opportunity to recognize members who had contributed in different ways to the success of the organization. This year, recognition awards went to: Papa Fungula for outstanding community leadership; Saji Mwanza for outstanding community services as member of the board of directors; and the Couple Daniel and Jose Nikuna for outstanding INGA Association membership.

Community Growth

INGA Community keeps growing in two ways: by a number of new born and new comers.

New Borns:

1. Makuba's family: baby boy, Josua;
2. Mbiye's family: baby boy, Nathan;
3. Mulumba's family: baby boy, Tresor;
4. Demby's family: baby girl, Berione;
5. Saleh's family: baby girl, Zugu

Please let's give a round of applause in congratulating those wonderful

parents and welcoming those young children into our community

New Comers:

1. Lyevin Mwamba
2. Ernestine Mwanasali
3. Imani Mwanasali
4. Jean Manzambi
5. Elizabeth Manzambi
6. Lisette Manzambi
7. Sandra Manzambi
8. Eric Manzambi
9. Evelyne Manzambi
10. Mariette Manzambi
11. Landry Manzambi
12. Destain Webster

13. Lauriane Webster
Please let's give a round of applause in welcoming these new members of our wonderful community.



The Barbecue/Picnic

This was another demonstration of our strength of our community characterized by the African solidarity and spirit of sharing. It was a good feeling to see everyone helping somehow with it: for example frying/BBQ-

ing, cutting the watermelon, setting up tables, removing trash, also packing the coolers etc.... Special thanks to the following members for the outstanding leadership and coordination of this event. Maman Mampassa, Davin Nganga,

Jerry Asisa. Well, we all had a great time together and people chat-



"It takes a community support to make a difference"

We're here on the net:

<http://www.ingaassociation.org/>

Important Upcoming Events

On November 17, 2007, members of the INGA Community will elect the new leadership of the INGA Association. The vacant positions up for election are: vacant local council members and the President, the oath officer of the INGA Association.

This is a seat of great importance and responsibility. This is the most important event of the calendar year because it will determine the future of the INGA for the next two years.

INGA has made great progress as an organi-

zation where the leaders are elected through a democratic process of transparency, fairness to all and full accountability. We strongly invite all members to run for any vacant position and encourage them to visit our website and download the Bylaws.

Previous year's newsletter will also arm candidates with solid background or information as candidate.

Financial Matters

As a Community Association, INGA Association is a members supported organization. Our budget depends on membership contribution and we strongly encourage those who haven't paid their community dues to do so now. In August, a semi-financial report was sent to all via community distribution group email.

Election Organizing Team...

For the 2007 elections, volunteer members of the INGA Independent Electoral Commission are:

Ms. Iris Musuambo
of Sacramento;

Mr. Daniel Nikuna of Salinas;

Mr. Fidele Mutima
of Oakland;

Mr. Joël Bulaya
of Sacramento

2008 New Year eve

As always, INGA will celebrate our traditional New Year eve event together. Stay tuned for more information



**C o m m u n i t y o f C o n g o l e s e & F r i e n d s o f
N o r t h e r n C a l i f o r n i a**

Communication

Community input, suggestions or comments are welcomed anytime by email at:

ingaleadership@yahoogroups.com

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 255192

Sacramento, CA 95865



Manu Kapapa,

Public Relations Officer

Contributor: Leadership Team

***Editor and Designer: Kakazi G.
Kitenge***