

Dehkontee Artists Theatre Turns 40 on September 16, 2017: Meet the Pioneers and Organizers



The number “forty” is a sacred code per traditional African Jewish belief. For this reason, many significant religious and solemn celebrations are observed using the number 40 to represent or observe numerous occasions or events during which God’s chosen people had a close encounter with him, or when they celebrate a ground-breaking event in their lives. Here are a few examples to set us on the sacred path to commence the celebration of the wondrous works Dehkontee Artists Theatre has produced through the grace of God and with the help of several individuals who worked hand in hand with Rabbi Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba to put Liberia and Africa on the world map of history, religion, and culture, over the past forty year!

Moses, one of our African Jewish ancestors who led the children of Israel from captivity in Egypt into the wilderness spent the first forty years of his life being trained by God to take up the responsibility of leading his people from captivity in Egypt, on their way to the Promise Land. Thereafter, the children of Israel spent forty years in the wilderness before they reconciled with the Lord and put aside their sacrilegious and ungodly behaviors to follow the Lord.

In the Old Testament, when God used water to destroy the earth, it rained forty days and forty nights, and Noah and his people spent forty days and forty nights in the ark before they came back on land.

Our Lord Jesus Christ spent forty days and forty nights in the wilderness: he had nothing to eat and drink and the devil tempted him three different times, but Christ resisted temptation and overcame the trials and tribulations that Satan put before Jesus.

After Jesus died, he rose from the grave on the third day but he appeared to his disciples on the fortieth day in the upper room to commune with them and to prove to his disciples he was still alive after his death and resurrection. Amen!

In Liberia, indigenous Liberians of Jewish descent hold a feast after the 40th day of the death of their loved ones; and, to consummate a marriage ceremony, the parents and relatives of the groom pay forty cowries or forty pieces of silver, or in modern day (forty dollars), as dowry to wed their new bride.

Therefore, the 40th Anniversary of Dehkontee Artists Theatre has both Jewish religious and cultural implications. Also, forty-three years ago, the founder of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Rabbi Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba, received his calling like most of his Jewish ancestors on the lower range of the tallest mountain in Liberia—Mount Nimba, at Grassfield, Yekepa, Nimba County, Liberia.

Like Moses, God called Dr. Gbaba to perform a task—the sacred task to unite the people of Liberia through the performing and visual arts. Consequently, Joe obeyed; and out of that calling emerged the foundation of his vocation as a playwright, director, actor, and educator. He wrote, directed, and produced his first play “Life Story of Kekula” at the Open-Door Theatre in October, 1974; and then forty years ago, he and some of his colleagues started a journey and commitment to keep the flames of Liberia’s cultural traditions and history ablaze nationally and internationally through the formation of Dehkontee Artists Theatre.

Hence, though it seems like just yesterday, much work, efforts, time, monies went into sustaining the dream to establish Liberia’s first viable theatre company known worldwide as Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc., that would be the pride of Liberia, and spearhead a cultural renaissance and Afrocentric pedagogical movement across the globe.

To donate to the worthy cause of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc., to promote peace, unity, reconciliation in post conflict Liberia, please log on to our official website: www.dehkonteeartists theatreinc.com and click on the "Donate" button to make a donation or purchase your tickets for the 40th Anniversary Gala.

Admissions

1. Ordinary: \$20
2. Couple: \$35
3. Patron: \$50
4. Grand Patron: \$100 (includes a copy of the 40th Anniversary Brochure).
5. 40th Anniversary Brochure: \$20
6. A copy of Dr. Gbaba's book *Conflict Resolution and the Concept of Change*: \$30. It is a must read about the Liberian civil war and the author's recommendations regarding how Liberians can peacefully resolve their national crisis and restore genuine rule of law in post war Liberia.

Your donations will be tax deductible because DATI is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit cultural and educational organization established at the University of Liberia forty years ago!

Meet DATI's Founder and Executive Director



Rabbi Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba, Sr., Ed. D.

Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba, Sr. is the founder and Executive Director of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. Dr. Gbaba began his vocation forty-three years ago, when he wrote, directed, and produced his first play entitled "Life Story of Kekula" at the Open-Door Theatre in Yekepa, Nimba County, in 1974. He was then a senior student at Carroll High School.

Three years later he founded Dehkontee Artists Theatre at the University of Liberia in 1977 and has since furthered his education in the fields of Theatre and Education to continue his calling from God. Joe holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of Liberia; a Master of Fine Arts in Drama (Directing and Acting) from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro; a Master of Science in Education with emphasis in Elementary and Special Education; and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from St. Joseph's University.

Dr. Gbaba is the self-published author of three books: (1) *The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville*; (2) *Ah-zeo, Ma Garh*; and (3) *Conflict Resolution and the Concept of Change*.

He has written and produced several African plays for several West African Presidents, foreign diplomats, and different audiences on the continent of Africa and here in the United States of America. Some of his plays include but are not limited to: (1) "The Chains of Apartheid"; (2) "Zon Ninneh Taryee"; (3) "Love for Mymah"; (4) "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville"; (5) "Yah" ("Vision"); "The Minstrel's Tales"; (6) "The Resurrection", (7) "Chakla Wedding", (8) "Town Trap", etc.

Dr. Gbaba has taught English Literature, Composition, Drama, Creative Writing, Acting from elementary through college levels at the following institutions on the continent of Africa and here in the United States of America:

1. St. Patrick's High School
2. A. M. E. Zion Academy High School
3. College of West Africa
4. St. Teresa's Convent
5. Cuttington University
6. Zwedru Multilateral High School
7. University of Liberia
8. Mother Pattern College of Social Works
9. A.M.E. Zion Community College
10. Jay Cooke Middle School in Philadelphia
11. Grover Cleveland Middle School in Philadelphia.

Dr. Gbaba's research interest is in the domain of qualitative research, Afrocentric curriculum development and textbook production. He can be contacted at: gbaba5@aol.com.

Meet the First President of the Honorable Body of Dehkontee Artists Theatre



Honorable Joshua "Jacko" Howard

Joshua "Jacko" Howard is the first President of the Honorable Body of Dehkontee Artists Theatre. He is a 1975 graduate of Ricks Institute in Virginia, Liberia, a former student of the University of Liberia, and one of the original founders of Dehkontee Artists Theatre. During his administration Dehkontee Artists reigned as the premiere theatre organization in Liberia from the latter half of the 1970s through the mid-eighties. Through his astute leadership Dehkontee Artists Theatre performed for several West African Heads of States, and foreign

diplomats, and became a household word in Liberia. The group also traveled to various regions of Liberia and made an international tour to neighboring Sierra Leone where Dehkontee Artists Theatre had the honor of holding its first presidential and State House performance in honor of Sierra Leone's First Vice President, S.I. Koroma on July 26, 1978.

Joshua will be honored on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143 at 6 p.m. prompt, for his outstanding leadership qualities and immense contribution toward the promotion of Liberian arts and culture worldwide. We look forward to honoring this patriotic citizen of Liberia who spent his time and resources to put his native land on the world map of culture and history. The event will take place on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Phila PA 19143 at 6 p.m. prompt.

Meet DATI's Second President



Honorable Jones Blamo

Mr. Jones Blamo is the Second President of the Honorable Body of Dehkontee Artists Theatre from 2001-2005. Through his leadership and staunch support, Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. was organized in the United States and incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit African cultural and educational organization. Also, during the tenure of Mr. Blamo, Dehkontee Artists Theatre performed Dr. Gbaba's "Town Trap" production at the Calvary United Methodist Church in Philadelphia on Saturday, August 4, 2001, to acquaint the international public with the suffering of the Liberian people and the civil war that was still raging in Liberia.

Apart from the Philadelphia performance, Dehkontee Artists Theatre went on performance tours to Allentown, Pennsylvania, and St. Paul, Minnesota, respectively, under the auspices of Mr. Blamo and Mr. James Krischen Wah, Sr. Mr. Blamo will be honored on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143 at 6 p.m. prompt, in recognition of his contribution toward the promotion of our cultural and historical heritage. We cordially invite you to attend and join us salute this patriotic son of Liberia who takes great pride in his cultural and historical heritage as a member of the Kwa Linguistic group from Eastern Liberia.

Meet the Third President of the Honorable Body of Dehkontee Artists Theatre



Honorable James Krischen Wah, Sr.

Mr. James Krichen Wah, Sr. is the Third President of the Honorable Body of Dehkontee Artists Theatre. He succeeded Jones Blamo when DATI resumed operations in 2015. Mr. Wah helped to revive the 501© (3) nonprofit status of DATI with the IRS, and expanded the operations of the organization in the Maryland/Washington, D.C. region of the United States. During his administration Dehkontee Artists Theatre participated in the cultural extravaganza hosted by the Liberian Embassy on July 25, 2015, in Washington, D.C. DATI also staged a main stage production of Joe Gbaba's "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville" at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts before a capacity crowd, on January 9, 2016.

Prior to taking over the administrative leadership of DATI, Mr. Wah provided financial and material supports during the Blamo administration and aided in coordinating road performances to Allentown, PA, and St. Paul, Minnesota, respectively. We salute this young patriotic Liberian citizen who has set a good example for the youths of Liberia to emulate, and look forward to honoring him for his kind contributions toward the sustenance of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. as a viable and productive cultural and educational institution on the continent of Africa and here in the diaspora. Mr. James Krischen Wah, Sr. will be among dignitaries to be honored during DATI's 40th Anniversary Gala on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143 at 6 p.m. prompt. Please join us to recognize the kind contribution of a fellow Liberian and patriot from the Kwa Linguistic group of Eastern Liberia.

Meet the Incoming/Fourth & First African American President of the Honorable Body of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. & Co-Chair of DATI's 40th Anniversary Gala!



Honorable Timothy Gardiner

Mr. Timothy Gardiner is a Philadelphia native. He served as Vice President during the administrations of Jones Blamo and James Krischen Wah, Sr., and is currently the Chief Administrator and Special Assistant to the Executive Director of Dehkontee Artists Theatre.

Mr. Gardiner has been a faithful and reliable volunteer of Dehkontee Artists Theatre for sixteen years and he is responsible for keeping the organization alive during Dr. Gbaba's leave of absence when he was pursuing graduate and post graduate studies at St. Joseph's University. What is unique about Mr. Gardiner is that he is an African American that loves his African cultural roots. He exhibits his affinity for his African cultural heritage through this unflinching financial, material, and moral supports, and puts in hundreds of hours making sure the day to day administrative chores of DATI are executed efficiently.

Besides his administrative duties, Mr. Gardiner serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Dehkontee Artists and serves on several committees including the Ways and Means and Events and Membership Committees. He will be inducted as the Fourth and First African American President of the Honorable Body of Dehkontee Artists Theatre on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143, in recognition of his outstanding leadership abilities and love for his African cultural heritage. We cordially invite you to congratulate and recognize an African American who is working along with his

African brothers and sisters to bridge the social, political, and economic divide between Blacks on the continent of Africa and those in the diaspora.

Meet Princess Ariminta Gbaba, Secretary of the Board of Directors & Wife of Rabbi Gbaba



Princess Ariminta H. Gbaba, M.S.

Princess Ariminta Gbaba is the wife of Rabbi Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba. She serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors and as a member on the Events and Membership Committee. She also participates in DATI's drama productions as an actress, and is responsible for the daily correspondences of the organization.

Mrs. Gbaba holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Cuttington University in the Republic of Liberia, and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. She is very passionate about the well-being of Liberian children and their future and would like to return to Liberia someday to establish a home economics program for post war Liberian girls, and to help them acquire some skills they can use to earn an earnest living and properly reintegrate into mainstream post war Liberian society.

Mrs. Gbaba cordially invites the public to attend the 40th Anniversary of DATI and solicits your unflinching financial and material support to help DATI accomplish its goal of promoting peace, reconciliation, and national development through culture and education and the performing and visual arts in Liberia someday.

Meet the Hostess and Chair Lady of DATI's 40th Anniversary Gala, Madam Comfort Shilue Sobah!



Honorable Comfort Shilue Sobah

Mrs. Comfort Shilue Sobah is a member of the Board of Directors of [Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. - DATI](#), and Chair of the Events and Membership Committee. She is the chief organizer of the 40th Anniversary Gala that is scheduled on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center.

Mrs. Sobah is a socialite and an events planner. She has been a strong supporter of Dehkontee Artists Theatre since 2001. She is very reliable and hard-working, committed, and very passionate about what she does. Comfort Shilue Sobah also believes that the youth of Liberia and all African youths should appreciate their rich and diversified cultural heritage, and she puts her belief in action by volunteering her time and resources to make sure the goals and objectives of Dehkontee Artists Theatre are successfully implemented. We are very confident that with her leadership the 40th Anniversary will be a booming success! Mrs. Comfort Shilue Sobah is calling on the public to turn out on Saturday, September 16, 2016 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Phila PA 19143 to support a worthy cause. See you at the 40th Anniversary Gala!

Meet Madam Julian Koffa-Dixon, DATI's Chair of the Ways and Means Committee



Honorable Juliana Koffa-Dixon, MBA, CMA, CFM

Mrs. Juliana Koffa Dixon is a distinguished member of the Board of Directors of [Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. - DATI](#), and Chair of the Ways and Means Committee. She is the chief financial adviser to the Board and the brain behind DATI's fundraising drive to implement the various cultural and educational projects of the organization.

Mrs. Dixon is the daughter of Dr. Gbaba's kindergarten teacher (Mrs. Margaret Karpeh Koffa). Mrs. Dixon is a very brilliant expert in the financial field and a strong advocate of the promotion of the culture and history of Liberia. She strongly believes that Liberian and African youths born in the diaspora, as well as those on the continent of Africa, should be taught the history and culture of their ancestors to help them develop as independent human beings in the future. Hence, Mrs. Dixon's fund of knowledge in the financial field is indeed an asset to DATI and we are highly honored to have this distinguished professional Liberian lady as a member of our Board of Directors and Chair of the Ways and Means Committee of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc.

Consequently, DATI's Ways and Means Chair and her committee members are calling on all to attend to support Dehkontee Artists Theatre achieve its goal of raising about a hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to launch a cultural awareness and reconciliation project through the performing and visual arts in Liberia in 2018. Look forward to your support.

Meet the Co-Organizer of DATI's 40th Anniversary Fashion and Talent Show on September 16th at the African Cultural Center on September 16th, 2017 in Philadelphia



Honorable Alfreda Cheaye Morris

Mrs. Alfreda Cheaye Morris is a member of the Events and Membership Committee of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, and one of the organizers of the fashion show. She is very compassionate about the promotion of Liberian/African arts and culture and brings a wealth of experience in events planning and fundraising experience to the table.

Elegant and charming, Mrs. Alfreda Cheaye Morris has been entrusted to organize the fashion show aspect of DATI's 40th Anniversary along with Ms. Nora S. Solo. Both ladies have a penchant for Liberian/African fashion design and will be collaborating with a couple of local Liberian fashion designers to bring Liberian fashion to the fore front during the 40th Anniversary of Dehkontee Artists Theatre on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Phila PA 19143 at 6 p.m. prompt.

The guests of Dehkontee Artists Theatre will be treated to a classical fashion show of their lifetime under the direction of Mrs. Cheaye Morris who is frantically putting all of the pieces together for what is believed to be a memorable African fashion show of the twenty-first century in Philadelphia! You are all cordially invited to attend the 40th Anniversary Gala of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center in Philadelphia, PA. We encourage you to come dressed to impress!

Meet the Co-Organizer of DATI's 40th Anniversary Fashion and Talent Show



Honorable Nora S. Solo

Ms. Nora S. Solo is member of [Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. - DATI's](#) Events and Membership Committee and co-organizer of the 40th Anniversary fashion show. She and Mrs. Alfreda Cheaye Morris have been entrusted to put together an attractive and informative fashion expression coming out of war torn Liberia in the twenty-first century.

Ms. Solo brings her liveliness, charm, and energy to the DATI Events and Membership Committee at a time when we need her most. Her love for fashion and her ability to follow through with her word are two great qualities that make Nora an asset to the Events and Membership Committee.

Indeed, guests of DATI should expect to have a wonderful evening of culture, education, politics, fashion, and fanfare on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Phila PA 19143 at 6 p.m. prompt. See you at DATI's 40th Anniversary! Don't miss the fun and pageantry because Ms. Nora Solo and her team will keep you spellbound with the latest fashion designs from Mother Africa!

Meet the Tech Man for the 40th Anniversary Celebration!



Honorable Lars Tomo McCritty

Mr. Lars Tomo McCritty is a graduate of Carroll High School from where Rabbi Gbaba obtained his high school diploma. Lars' late Mother, Mrs. Dolly McCritty Massaquio, was one of Dr. Gbaba's mentors and chief sponsors. She encouraged the playwright to pursue his dream of promoting Liberian history and culture and gave him the pen name "Liberia's Shakespeare".

Tomo is an avid supporter of Dehkontee Artists Theatre. Lars has been a member of Dehkontee Artists Theatre since 1984. He is a musician, technician, stage manager, and props manager during DATI's public performances. Lars is the man that makes DATI's productions look great and professional due to his multiple talents and multitasking skills. He has acted in several of Dr. Gbaba's plays such as "The Resurrection", "Chakla Wedding", and "Town Trap".

In addition, Mr. McCritty is a member of the Events and Membership Committee. He will be responsible for the technical aspect of the 40th Anniversary production on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. Hence, with "Showman" Lars on board, the 40th Anniversary of DATI must be a smashing hit! Come and see classical Liberian show biz at its best!

Meet the Co-Organizer of the Entertainment Segment of DATI's 40th Anniversary!



Honorable Sando B. Johnson

Mr. Sando B. Johnson is one of Dehkontee Artists Theatre's staunch supporters. He has been with DATI since 2001 and served as Assistant Secretary General during the formation of Dehkontee Artists Theatre in the United States. He was among those who worked with Jones Blamo to help raise funds to launch DATI's public awareness programs regarding the civil war and the need to lobby international support in the United States to restore peace and rule of law to Liberia. Mr. Johnson is Co-Organizer along with Mr. Charles Boimah Blake, Sr., and Edwin Kesselley, in charge of the entertainment aspect of DATI's 40th Anniversary Gala.

Throughout the years, this patriotic son of Liberia has been very committed to the promotion of Liberia's and Africa's rich and diversified cultural and historical heritage. Dehkontee Artists Theatre raised thousands of dollars to implement its cultural and educational programs over the past sixteen years through the persistent commitment and efforts of Mr. Sando B. Johnson. Also, Sando is one of Liberia's gems: a young man of principles, kind-hearted and a man of his word.

Therefore, rest assured that those who attend DATI's 40th Anniversary will be well entertained and educated on the rich history and culture of Liberia, as well as the numerous contributions Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. is making to keep Liberia and Africa on the world map of culture and education. We look forward to receiving you as our distinguished guests on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center in Philadelphia.

Meet the Master of Ceremonies & Chief of Protocol of DATI's 40th Anniversary Gala, Manjah Charles Boimah Blake, Sr.



Manjah Charles Boimah Blake, Sr.

Manjah Charles Boimah Blake, Sr. is member of the Board of Directors of Dehkontee Artists Theatre. He is a member of the Events and Membership Committee and Co-organizer for the entertainment activities of DATI's 40th Anniversary Gala. Mr. Blake is also the official Master of Ceremonies of the 40th Anniversary Gala.

Furthermore, Lord-Blake Carrington is head of the New Breed Liberian Patriots (NBLP), a group of former students of Dr. Joe Gbaba's that organized themselves to galvanize political and financial support to promote the literary contributions of Dr. Gbaba and Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. Six years ago, the NBLP sponsored the 33rd Anniversary Celebration of Dehkontee Artists Theatre at the St. Francis de Sales Auditorium to commemorate the deaths of a quarter million Liberians that died in the Liberian Civil War. That solemn and memorable event brought together hundreds of patriotic Liberians, Africans, and citizens of several western nations to celebrate the literary and artistic achievements of Dr. Joe Gbaba and DATI, and to promote peace and reconciliation among all Liberians after a bitter civil war that has paralyzed the entire infrastructure of Liberia.

Apart from his obligation with DATI as Board member, Mr. Charles B. Blake, Sr. is a genuine patriot: he has deep love and appreciation of the culture of Liberia, and has the interest of Liberian children at heart. He also runs a nonprofit organization called "D'Company" that conducts a feeding program in Liberia for young Liberian children that have survived the civil war.

Thus, with his eloquence and deep devotion to his country, fellow countrymen and women, as well as the culture and history of Liberia, guests of DATI at its 40th Anniversary should expect a lively evening of great entertainment, fanfare, and education, on September 16,

2017 at the African Cultural Center in Philadelphia, PA 19143. The event starts at 6 p.m. prompt. Please be our guests!

Meet the Bodioh from the East & Co-Chair of DATI's Ways and Means Committee, the "Doc"!



Honorable James Nmlewah Elliott, MD

Dr. James Nmlewah Elliott is a member of the Board of Directors and member of the Ways and Means and Events and Membership Committees of Dehkontee Artists Theatre. Dr. Elliot is a genuine patriot who loves the culture and history of Liberia and has been a staunch supporter of DATI's programs in the Maryland area since 2016.

His unswerving support and commitment to our cause is highly appreciated and we hope many other professional Liberians will emulate the kind and patriotic gesture of this young statesman to help Dehkontee Artists Theatre put Liberia on the international map of culture and education. Further, we commend our Board member, Dr. Elliott for his kind and patriotic gesture and anticipate many fruitful years of collaboration with him in the future. Please join us celebrate Liberia's and Africa's cultural diversity on September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Meet DATI's Former Treasurer and Co-Organizer of the Entertainment Segment of DATI's 40th Anniversary



Honorable Edwin Brooks Kesselley

Edwin Brooks Kesselley served as Treasurer of DATI during the Jones Blamo administration. He is currently member of the Events and Membership Committee and Co-organizer responsible for the entertainment aspect of DATI's 40th Anniversary.

Affectionately called Brooks, or jokingly known as “Ah-yo-bo-yabah” Mr. Kesselley is a very trustworthy Liberian citizen. Also, he is very passionate and diligent in the performance of his assigned tasks. During his tenure as Treasurer of DATI, he helped to raise thousands of dollars to implement the programs of the organization and always made sure the necessary financial and material supports were provided to make Dehkontee Artists Theatre performances successful. Furthermore, it was during his tenure as Treasurer that Dehkontee Artists Theatre comprising of an entourage of over sixty persons went on a performing tour to Allentown, Pennsylvania, and St. Paul, Minnesota in 2002.

We are honored to have this true son of Liberia as one of DATI's sponsors and Co-organizers for the entertainment aspect of DATI's 40th Anniversary on September 16, 2017 at

the African Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. Please come and celebrate with us. Rest assured the event will be a lot of fun with a lot of "ah-yea-bo-ya-bahs" going on! Please be our guests!

Meet "Doc Watts", the Fashion Icon and Co-Organizer of DATI's 40th Anniversary Fashion & Talent Show



Honorable Watson "Doc Watts" Suah

Watson "Doc Watts" Suah is a young, energetic Liberian social icon. He loves the culture and history of his native land and has volunteered to do all he can to see Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. succeed in the fulfillment of its mission goal to educate and entertain through the performing and visual arts.

Also, Watson is one of DATI's young patrons. He and his fiancée attended the opening main stage production of Dr. Joe Gbaba's "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville" at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts on January 9, 2016. Since then he has contributed meaningfully toward the promotion of Dehkontee Artists Theatre by publishing ads and write-ups that engage and encourage the public and young folks to support the worthy efforts of Dr. Gbaba and Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc.

Mr. Suah is a very excellent example of the Liberian Millennials in the United States that take great pride in their cultural heritage. He is very conscious about promoting peace and reconciliation among Liberians and is willing to volunteer his time and services to implement that worthy cause. As member of the Events and Membership Committee for DATI's 40th Anniversary, Mr. Suah will serve as DATI's liaison with the youth population, and work along with Mrs. Alfreda Cheaye Morris, Ms. Nora Solo, Ms. Ellen Dunbar, to set up an impressive fashion and talent show that will be better than everything else!

The Management of DATI is pleased to welcome Watson "Doc Watts" Suah on board and look forward to a successful production on September 16, 2017 in the City of Brotherly Love at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. See you there because "Doc Watts" will be in the house!

Meet DATI's Deputy Chief of Protocol for the 40th Anniversary Gala on September 16, 2017



Honorable Emmanuel Kwame Gbedee

Mr. Emmanuel Kwame Gbedee is a member of the Board of Directors of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, and serves on the Events and Membership Committee for the 40th Anniversary Gala. He will join Mr. Charles Boima Blake, Sr. as Deputy Chief of Protocol for the occasion.

Mr. Gbedee has been a staunch supporter of DATI since 2015. He and his daughter attended the opening night of DATI's main stage production of Joe Gbaba's "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville" on January 9, 2016, at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Emman is a diplomat per excellence and of course he will make sure the protocol of the 40th Anniversary Gala will be observed to the letter.

See you at the 40th Anniversary of DATI on September 16th 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. The event starts at 6 p.m. prompt. His Excellency E.K. Gbedee will be there to welcome you with his tempting smile!

Meet DATI's Cultural Ambassador, Madam Kormassa Bobo



Ambassador Madam Kormassa Bobo

Madam Kormassa Bobo is Dehkontee Artists Theatre's Cultural Ambassador. She is a traditional master dance artist and a member of the DATI Events and Membership Committee. She will be performing in the talent and fashion show segment of the Gala along with Lars McCritty, Rita Pierre, Annette Landers, Alie Kamara, and Dr. Joe Gbaba.

Apart from her affiliation with DATI, Madam Kormass Bobo was a distinguished member of the National Cultural Troupe of Liberia where she received more artistic training after she graduated from the Sande traditional institution in Lofa County in Liberia. She will serve as one of the traditional dance and cultural instructors in DATI's cultural renaissance projects soon. Madam Bobo will also be highlighting some of Liberia's traditional cultural dance costumes for the entertainment and education of DATI's guests at the 40th Anniversary Gala at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143, on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 6 p.m. prompt. Look forward to seeing you at the Gala because Ambassador Madam Kormassa Bobo will grace the occasion with her diplomatic presence!

Meet Mrs. Rita Beslow Pierre, Co-Organizer of DATI's 40th Anniversary Talent Show



Honorable Rita Beslow Pierre

Mrs. Rita Beslow Pierre is one of Liberia's gems on the theatre stage. She is a graduate of the B.W. Harris Episcopal High school and joined Dehkontee Artists Theatre during the heat of the Liberian Civil War.

Versatile and committed to the goals of DATI, Mrs. Pierre has starred in several DATI productions including its radio drama series "Roads to Recovery", "The Resurrection", "Town Trap", "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville", and as Ma Miatta in Dr. Gbaba's "No More Hard Times".

Rita is member of DATI's Events and Membership Committee and will be participating in the talent show segment of the 40th Anniversary Gala along with Lars McCritty and other thespians. Come and see Rita play multiple roles and exhibit her talents. She is a dazzling sight on stage. Please do not miss the treat of your life because seeing is believing! See you on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. The event starts at 6 p.m. prompt.

Meet DATI's Official Videographer and Board Member, Harrison "BlackBaby" Jiedueh



Honorable Harrison "BlackBaby" Jiedueh

Mr. Harrison "BlackBaby" Jiedueh is a member of the Board of Directors of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc., and serves on the Events and Membership Committee. In addition, he is the official Videographer, and webmaster of DATI and is credited with the video and photographic documentation of our productions and social functions.

Mr. Jiedueh is a patriotic Liberian who cherishes his ancestral heritage and is prepared at all cost to volunteer his time, expertise, and services to ensure DATI's mission goal and statement are fulfilled. In addition, he is a rare gem, a dependable and God-fearing Christian, and a true patriot whose word is his bond!

The Management of DATI is blessed to have this native son of Sinoe County, Liberia--a true "Geeklor boy" as a member of our Board of Directors and the Chief Videographer of our esteemed organization. You can log on our website to see the fruits of Mr. Jiedueh's labor: www.dehkonteeartiststheatreinc.com.

As a member of the Events and Membership Committee Mr. Harrison "BlackBaby" Jiedueh is charged with the responsibility of documenting this historic event so that posterity of Liberians can watch the immense contributions Dehkontee Artists Theatre is making to promote Liberia's history and culture worldwide.

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