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October 2, 2019

**Public Private Alliance Foundation**

Dear Friends,

The past two months have been very important globally and for us. In this edition of the *PPAF Insider* we devote special attention to recent events concerning the earth's climate and how that relates to Haiti, PPAF and our colleagues. Also we report on activities in New York, progress from project sites in Haiti, and public approval for a photographer we are helping.

In Haiti right now there are street protests against the government, the shortage of petrol and the rising prices. We are working with talented and committed Haitian colleagues. They are suffering but continuing as best they can, and they deserve our support.

Warm regards,

David Stillman, PhD, Executive Director

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## Climate - The Major Issue of Our Day

Everywhere around us - in communities, schools and cities around the world - people are becoming more aware of the increasing danger to our planet from climate change. We are coming to realize that human activity is a major driver of this and it is human actions that must limit the damage.

This past week the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, which is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, issued its *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. (<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/>) In a section on low lying islands and coasts the report examined the implications of climate change for employment, health, poverty, food security, budgets and investments in those areas. The report highlighted that multi-sectoral and cascading effects will result from current international trends and urged that risk management efforts must evolve into climate resilient actions. ([https://report.ipcc.ch/srocc/pdf/SROCC\\_FinalDraft\\_CCP\\_LowLyingIslandsCoasts.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/srocc/pdf/SROCC_FinalDraft_CCP_LowLyingIslandsCoasts.pdf))

Also this past week the UN Secretary-General convened a **Climate Action Summit** at the start of the 2019 session of the General Assembly. (<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml>) Its purpose: to advance efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so as to try to control the rise in global temperatures. Some 60 countries planned to make announcements. The teenage activist **Greta Thunberg** gave an impassioned speech declaring to world leaders that they are failing to address the crisis. To increase public pressure, a **Global Climate Strike** of protest demonstrations was held in 91 countries with participation by over 4 million people. Some of those events brought attention to climate in general; others focused on specific situations of deforestation, coal-fired electrical generation, or fossil fuel exploration.

## What does climate have to do with Haiti, PPAF and our colleagues?

Haiti is a small country with problems well described in that IPCC report. In addition, severe shortage of petroleum fuel is one of the main reasons for the road blockages and anti-government demonstrations that have been growing for many months. PPAF and collaborating organizations are small too, but what we seek to create can be important to the people we work with, and we aim to expand these innovations. As the IPCC report says, every action counts. Haitian families' heavy reliance on charcoal for cooking has environmental, health and economic consequences consistent with those at the global scale. Greater public awareness and actions are needed in Haiti as elsewhere to shift to renewable sources of energy, reduce toxic emissions, and reclaim the land.

PPAF and associated organizations promote such awareness and actions. One of these, **Solar Cookers International**, focuses on advocacy, capacity-building and research and has a network that reaches some 140 countries. It has also prepared a reference on how solar cooking relates to each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. ([https://solarcooking.fandom.com/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goals](https://solarcooking.fandom.com/wiki/United_Nations_Sustainable_Development_Goals))

Another collaborator, **Solar CITIES Global Biogas Education**, focuses on free fuel and nutrient dense fertilizer from organic residues, so as to help communities move away from non-renewable energy sources and their many negative environmental side effects. Solar CITIES has undertaken workshops and related biodigester construction at 32 sites internationally, and is a key partner in Haiti.

PPAF and colleagues are advancing solar and biogas cooking and biodigester fertilizer at the Université Notre Dame d'Haiti at Hinche (UNDH-H) and elsewhere in Haiti, promoting youthful entrepreneurship for baking and sewing at the Art Creation Foundation for Children in Jacmel, and conducting advocacy at the United Nations and elsewhere in the USA. <http://www.ppaFOUNDATION.org/gallery.html>

## Meetings with Vice-Rector of Université Notre Dame d'Haiti - Hinche

The Vice-Rector of UNDH-H visited New York in late August, attended an annual get-together of friends of Solar Cookers International, and joined Haiti team members in a solar and biogas-cooked lunch at the farm of a collaborator. We discussed the team's first-year experiences in the course we had initiated at Hinche, and future plans. Shown in the photos below are Father Herald Jean (UNDH-H), Kathy Puffer (Solar CITIES Biogas), Alan Bigelow (Solar Cookers International), Rose Bazile (KDCK and consultant to UNDH-H) and David Stillman (PPAF).





## Solar Cookers International Featured in *The New Yorker* Magazine

We are happy to spread the news that Solar Cookers International was featured in *The New Yorker* in its September 30th edition. The *New Yorker* has over 1 million readers. The article describes the importance of solar cooking, and SCI's role. Thanks to its supporters, SCI is promoting knowledge of solar cooking more and more broadly. Alan Bigelow and Rose Bazile, two of the key colleagues in the Haiti project team, receive special mention in the magazine. [Click here to read the article.](#)



## Art Creation Foundation for Children

We have seen very good progress in the baking and sewing classes of the Young Entrepreneurs program at the Art Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC) in Jacmel. Photos sent to us are delightful and show the talents of the instructors and the enthusiasm and productivity of the students. Please see [www.ppaFOUNDATION.org/gallery.html](http://www.ppaFOUNDATION.org/gallery.html).

Accordingly PPAF has approved renewed support to ACFFC for a new round of 20 weeks, starting in October. This will include a second level of training for the five students in the sewing class and a new group of six students in the baking class.

ACFFC plans to include solar cooking every other week in the baking class. At the end of the course PPAF will give solar cookers to the students and they are to send back weekly photos of what they make. In the sewing class the students are to make aprons for sale. At the end of the course ACFFC plans to provide used sewing machines and supplies so each student can

start a micro-business.



PPAF and collaborators are advancing with important work. Your donations are making this possible. Thank you again for your support!

### Solar Cooking at a Haiti Diaspora Picnic

Our team showed what solar cooking can do at the annual Pique-Nique de l'Amitie, at the Hempstead Lake State Park on Long Island, New York in August. Over 1,000 participants heard Rose Bazile (KDCK and UNDH-H), Alan Bigelow (SCI) and David Stillman (PPAF) speak of the benefits of solar cooking and of the tasty dishes we had prepared at our table. The event organizer introduced us and several attendees spoke with us afterward to learn more.



### On assignment -- Solar and biogas progress in Haiti

Our colleague Rose Bazile (KDCK and consultant to UNDH-H) went for a two-week assignment in Haiti to conduct monitoring and promotions in Hinche, in Jacmel and in Port-au-Prince.

In Hinche she worked with students from the course the team has supported, she consulted with the faculty leader of the course, she discussed biogas possibilities with the campus cook, and she met with community members who have been using solar cookers and one - a student - who got a biodigester installed at his home. To top it off, she sold Haines.1 solar cookers to several students who had taken the university course.

In Jacmel Rose introduced solar cooking to the baking class PPAF supports at ACFFC. She got a warm welcome from students, the teacher (who is also the ACFFC chef & manager of food services) and the Executive Director. Rose showed how solar cookers function and

students were able to experiment as well.

We were very pleased at what Rose accomplished with the many people she met. Photos illustrating all these are available at [www.pfafoundation.org/gallery.html](http://www.pfafoundation.org/gallery.html).



### Blue Door Latest Exhibition

The Blue Door Art Center, in Yonkers NY, chose five photos by Haitian artist Fedno Lubin for its exhibition "Partners in Art" which runs from September 14 to October 12. This show features artists who work side by side or collaboratively. In addition to the quality of Fedno's photos the judges were pleased that PPAF is collaborating with him and making his work known around New York.

We chose for display some photos taken at a Rara festival near Jacmel earlier this year. Rara is a form of festival music that originated in Haiti and is used for street processions, typically around Easter. The music centers on a set of cylindrical bamboo one-note trumpets. Several of these with different pitches are played in rhythm. Offsetting these are percussion beats from drums, whistles and other instruments. Troupes of performers, and all who wish to join in, sing and dance on the roadways while the band plays.



### In Memorium -- Taina Glaude

A memorial service celebrating the life and service of our friend Taina Glaude was held in August at the Church Center for the UN in New York. Taina was a long-standing UN staff member and was head of the "Club Aux Antilles" to which many Haitian staff and others belonged. She was always interested in PPAF and more recently in the consortium of organizations now engaged in solar and biogas cooking and garden fertilizer in Haiti. At her invitation Rose Bazile and David Stillman made a presentation to members of the club a

few months ago, and she participated in the solar cooker picnic that Rose hosted at her home in June. Taina was a dear friend and will be sorely missed.



## HOW YOU CAN WORK WITH THE FOUNDATION

Your gift is your way to be a part of our work. Your contributions make it possible for the Foundation to continue our work in bringing organizations and people together for sustainable development and clean energy. “Like” us on [Facebook](#), view our videos on YouTube, join us on [LinkedIn](#) and receive our [Twitter feeds](#) .

(1) **Donate Directly.** It's quick, safe and easy to give online. Go to [www.ppafoundation.org](http://www.ppafoundation.org) and click on the donation button you prefer. Please consider a monthly gift. You can also mail a check directly to Dr. David Stillman, PPAF, 166 Edgars Lane, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706, USA. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Its EIN is **71-1016293**.

(2) **Become a Corporate Sponsor.** You'll be listed on our website and in our newsletter as a corporation that supports important work in agribusiness, clean energy, and broad assistance to people in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar. Contact David Stillman at [ppafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ppafoundation@gmail.com)

(3) **Give through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)** Whenever you make a purchase through Amazon.com, please enter [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) . When you start that account, choose Public-Private Alliance Foundation and a fraction of your purchase price will go to PPAF. It costs you nothing, and PPAF programs benefit from your action.

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