

*Embracing The Past*



*Enriching the Future*

NY CHAPTER INC.

NY Chapter 2011 Annual Report

In the pages that follow you will see what your Alumni Association has done over the past year. To say it has been a strong year is an understatement.

As we mark the end of our inaugural year 2011, we can look back with justifiable pride on twelve months filled with accomplishment and recognition. Our accomplishments point to the bold directions for our past students' Association established at the start of the year. In the days to come, new goals and important challenges await us in our ongoing effort to support our members and alma mater.

We have taken giant strides in setting up our communication with you our membership. Your reading of this annual report is in itself a big development, our distribution of the quarterly Merlgrovia and our monthly e-mail updates give you the latest news and schedules for all things alumni here at the NY Chapter Inc.

In the years ahead we will continue to look for new and bold ways of serving our membership and the Merl Grove community. We will continue to seek out innovative methods to bring past students together and communicate with them. We will continue to spearhead efforts to financially supporting the school. We will aim to become a resource for students relocating to the area and invest in the school that we believe in and gained so much from while a student.

As I wrap up the year as president, I want to express how special this past year has been. To be able to meet so many past students, attend so many great events representing the chapter, and know that we as an Association are on our way to have a significant impact on MGHS has made it all worthwhile. I have gained so much from this experience, and ask you to continue to keep MGHS in your thoughts, because your Association is constantly thinking about you.

All the best,  
*Sharon L Wilson*

The Merl Grove High School Past Students' Association NY Chapter Inc. is a membership base association whose purpose is to develop alumni support of Merl Grove High School. It is anticipated that we will contribute funds to the school to:

- Augment equipment and supply budgets
- Help fund activities and programs for needy students identified by the school
- Support the activities for the students through gifts to school clubs and after school activities including academic and sport programs.

While we aim to accomplish all of the above, we also intend to as an association to have some fun and provide events for our membership base to get together in a relaxing and sometime causal atmosphere.

### **Significant Milestones**

- Not-For- Profit Corporation in NYS
- Union of Jamaican Alumni Association (UJAA) membership
- 501(c) 3 status pending

### **Executive Committee Actions**

The Executive Committee held three face to face meetings on July 2, 2011 and August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Issues the committee considered:

1. Final planning for Family Fun Day
2. 2012 general meeting calendar
3. Christmas Party
4. Next year's events

The Executive Committee plans to set a meeting schedule for 2012.

## Events 2011

1. **Women's History Month Caribbean Celebration.**

This was our inaugural event held March 19, 2011, where we hosted "An Evening with Andrene Bonner", a performance reading of her book. The goal was to raise an estimated \$2500.00 to help a student further her higher education in Jamaica. We look forward to launching this scholarship for the school year ending 2012.

2. **Family Fun Day**

Our biggest event to date held August 6, 2011 at Cunningham Park in Queens NY. Our family fun day was to provide comradeship amongst our membership base, meet families and friends. The aim was to raise funds to launch a lunch program at the school.

3. **Holiday Mix & Mingle**

It was an honor as a new association to be asked to host the UJAA Holiday Friday night Mix & Mingle. Because it was a last minute decision by the executive committee, a holiday raffle was combined to achieve additional revenue for the association along with the door.

Although these three events did not achieve their financial objectives, it allowed the membership base to gather in a causal atmosphere and reacquaint with each other.

## Membership

Like all new organization we struggle with how to grow our membership base. The spring membership campaign drive “**Spread Chapter Fever Around**” was not successful. Although it ran for several months the membership base did not embrace the concept. We look forward to this spring’s campaign and hope it will help to grow the membership base. Below is the current membership data as of December 2011 for the NYC area.

Category	Members	Percentage
Annual	7	12.7%
Associate	0	
Honorary	1	1.8%
Non –paying Dues	47	85.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	

Members	Years	Members	Years
2	1972	1	1992
1	1973	1	1994
4	1975	1	1995
1	1976	1	1996
1	1977	1	1997
1	1978	1	1998
2	1979	1	2000
2	1981	1	2003
2	1983	2	2005
2	1984	1	2007
3	1985	1	2009
1	1987	19	unknown
1	1990		

As the chapter’s actives increase we hope to see an increase in annual dues paying membership increase by 185%.

Revenue from dues **\$350.00**

*\*Membership was determined from the meetup group*

## **Projects**

With several projects planned we were unable to launch due to lack of funds and participation by the membership base. However we hope for 2012 this will increase.

### **Adopt-A-Class/Club**

The Adopt-A-Class/club was launched with less than an enthusiastic response by the MGHS community worldwide. In order to encourage participation the deadline had to be extended twice with less than a 100% adoption rate. We hope the project will garner support in the school year 2012-2013. **Overall adoption rate 6%**

**Classes adopted                    4 of 37 or 10%**

**Clubs adopted                        3 of 35 or 8%**

### **Spare A Penny Change A Life Campaign**

The chapter was asked by former principal Ms Allen to contribute to the building fund. We launched Spare a Penny Change a Life on March 2011 with the goal to collect a million pennies. This translated into \$10,000.00. To date there has been only \$15.00 contributed. Members will be encouraged to bring pennies to all events and general meetings. **Overall donation .0015%.**

## Communication

As we grew from our initial meeting of six, communication with the membership base was a concern as not all members were able to access the group site from work. Thus plans were made to migrate the chapter's internet presence from meet-up.com.

1. **Website**

Our new home was built and launched in March with 5 pages. We know this is a work in progress and plan to revamp the site to match the chapter's growing needs.

2. **Post Office Box**

In order to facilitate the communication process for members, a P.O. Box was established at the JFK Station post office. All members were encouraged to mail communications to the box. The chapter will continue to promote the use of the P.O. Box as a means of communicating with the executive committee and committee chairs.

3. **Facebook**

A facebook page was created for the NY Chapter Inc. to garner support locally and nationally. The event section is used to invite members, friends and family to meetings and planned events.

4. **Newsletter-The Merlgrovia**

The quarterly newsletter is another way to reach members and the community in-between meetings and events.

5. **Monthly Email Updates**

Email is used as a reminder to the membership base of upcoming events, other past students' association events.

## Fundraisers

Fundraisers are the primary activity of the chapter to raise funds. This year the chapter held three such activities.

### 1. Rolodex-A-Thon

This fundraiser was planned as a chapter activity to get the membership involve in raising money for our general funds. The aim was to raise enough funds to cover all our legal cost. This activity was planed over eight weeks. Each member was invited to reach out to her network.

**Achieved 22.22% of \$1350.00 goal**

### 2. The Macy's Shop for A Cause

Each year Macy's offer not-for-profit organization the opportunity to raise funds by selling their special passes for \$5.00. The chapter was fortunate to be accepted into the program for the year 2011. **Achieved 69% of \$1000.00 goal**

### 3. Holiday Raffle

With the opportunity to host the Holiday Mix & Mingle the executive committee decides to do a fundraiser in the form of a raffle. The goal was to raise \$1300 after expenses. 2000 raffle tickets were ordered and distributed to participating members (20 books @ \$5.00 per book).

**Achieved 33% of \$1344.00**

The Rolodex-A-Thon was not a success due to lack of participation by the membership base. The Shop for A Cause was a bit more successful with the chapter attaining over half of the goal, from funds collected. There are still outstanding funds from members who have participated.

### Revenue from Fundraising activities:

Rolodex-A-thon	\$300.00
Macy's Shop for A Cause	\$725.00
Holiday Raffle	\$440.00
<b>Total fundraising efforts 2011</b>	<b>\$1540.00</b>



**Finance**

Statements of activities for the fiscal year ending 2011

**Balance Sheet**

**Assets**

Cash in Bank	\$ 719.00
Cash in Bank for charitable purposes	\$ 275.00
Other Cash	\$ 15.00
Subtotal	\$1,009.00

Fixed Asset

Laptop	\$ -
Projector	\$ -
Cell phone	\$ -
cash box	\$ -
Boom Box & Mic	\$ -

Subtotal	\$ -
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<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,009.00</b>
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**Liabilities**

Andrene Bonner Scholarship Fund	\$ 275.00
Adopt-A-Class/Club	\$ -
Elorine Walker Scholarship Fund	\$ -
Building Fund	\$ 15.00
Other	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 290.00

**Chapter Equity**

Beginning Equity	\$ -
Net Income for the year	\$ 719.00
Subtotal	\$ 719.00

<b>Total Liabilities + Equity</b>	<b>\$1,009.00</b>
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Income & Expense Report

**Income**

**Operations**

Membership Dues	\$	350.00
Visitors	\$	-
Loan	\$	1,600.79
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,950.79</b>

**Charitable**

Fundraisers	\$	1,540.00
Donations	\$	50.00
Investments	\$	-
Scholarship	\$	275.00
Building Fund	\$	15.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,880.00</b>

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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,830.79</b>
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**Expenses**

Operations		
Meetings	\$	593.50
Other		
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>593.50</b>

Administrative		
Post Office Box	\$	96.00
Website Hosting	\$	236.75
Postage	\$	20.00
Business Registration	\$	95.00
Banner	\$	82.00
Printing & Copying	\$	82.95
Miscellaneous	\$	45.53
<b>Total Admin Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>658.23</b>

Miscellaneous		
Bank Charges	\$	-
Paypal Fees	\$	8.98
fundraising	\$	30.00
Events	\$	3,704.23
UJAA membership	\$	200.00
other	\$	152.02
<b>Total Misc Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,095.23</b>

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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,346.96</b>
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<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(1,516.17)</b>
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