

For Immediate Release

Contact: Roberta Delgado Vincent 860-447-3329
rvincent@csc.com

Alfred H. Gonsalves 860-887-5962
agon138@aol.com

Cape Verdean Santiago Society Inc. Announces Cape Verdean Community History Project

The Cape Verdean Santiago Society Inc., a Norwich-based social and cultural organization incorporated in 1939, has developed a project to research, document, and make accessible the rich history of Cape Verdeans who have settled in the Norwich area since the early 19th century and who continue to be an important part of the community today.

For many members of ethnic communities, their traditions have deep roots in history and culture, and are an important source of cultural identity and knowledge. Santiago Society Board member and project team co-director Alfred H. Gonsalves states, "If our history is not documented, it will be lost forever. One of our main project activities will be to interview older Cape Verdeans who have a wonderful store of memories and knowledge, so that we can gather this information and pass it on to our young people."

The history project will be conducted by a team of area Cape Verdeans with a great interest in their community's heritage, Norwich Historical Society Inc. and young adults from the Cape Verdean community. The team will examine land records, newspaper archives, census data, museum collections, oral histories, and the archives of the Cape Verdean Santiago Society to find information on Cape Verdeans in eastern Connecticut. Topics explored will include migration and settlement patterns, neighborhood demographics, traditional practices, and cultural events and activities. After completing the research, the CV Santiago Society will publish an illustrated booklet presenting the community's history to the public.

The booklet will be distributed to schools, area historical societies, public and college libraries, and will be widely available to the public free of charge, because this kind of research on a key Norwich community has not been compiled before. The project is supported by the Cape Verdean Santiago Society and funded through a grant from the Urban Artists Initiative, a joint program of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and the Institute for Community Research in Hartford.

If you have photographs, tape recordings, newspaper articles, artifacts, or other types of information on the Norwich-area Cape Verdean community, or if you know someone who does, please contact project team members Roberta Delgado Vincent or Alfred H. Gonsalves. You can send any information on materials you locate to the Cape Verdean Community History Project, Cape Verdean Santiago Society, Inc., 84 Talman St., Norwich CT 06360

The Cape Verdean Santiago Society, Inc. works to preserve the cultural heritage and values of Norwich residents of Cape Verdean descent, and organizes activities that interest and support our community as well as the city of Norwich .