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New Website Launched to Honor French Speaking Savannahians



Participants in June 24th's News Conference announcing launch of French website.

A press conference was held Wednesday, June 24th, in the conference room at the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) building to announce the launch of a new website, www.sejournsavannah.com, which is written entirely in French.

Sponsored in part by the Coastal Heritage Society, it features a history of the contributions of French-speaking people in Savannah (historians estimate that at one point in the 19th century, one in three Savannahians was a native French speak-

er!), as well as an interactive map showing sites of interest to French visitors.

Currently, a companion German website is in the works.

The Consul of France in Atlanta, Monsiuer Philippe Ardanaz, and the Consul of Germany in Atlanta, Dr. Lutz H. Görgens, were both on hand for the press conference.

The French website is dedicated to the late Dominique Audran, who, as General Manager of the Inn at Ellis Square and Honorary French Consul, greatly deep-

ened the ties between France and Savannah. Mr. Audran passed away following an illness last year.

Coastal Heritage Society has teamed up with the State of Georgia, the Savannah Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Inn at Ellis Square, the Coastal Museums Association, and the family of the late Honorary French Consul to Savannah, Dominique Audran, to make sure those who speak French and German have more welcoming and fulfilling experiences in our city.

NAACP Presents Petitions Asking for New Trial for Troy Davis



Helen Johnson (standing at podium), presents petitions signed by Chatham County residents to Lydia Sermons, Public Information Officer in the District Attorney's Office.

A multiracial group of faith and civic community leaders delivered over 10,000 signatures from Chatham County residents to Chatham County District Attorney Larry Chisolm's office on Monday, calling on the DA to take action to prevent the execution of Troy Davis and re-open his trial.

As more people in the community raise their voices for a new trial, the Associated Press reported Sunday that at least 4 of the 12 jurors in Davis' original trial have said in interviews or affidavits that they are having doubts about the justice of the death sentence.

In 2007, four of the jurors signed affidavits

describing their doubts about the Davis trial. These affidavits were presented at Davis' clemency hearing before the Georgia Pardons and Poles board in 2007 from jurors Brenda Forrest, Curtis Wilson, Cynthia Quarterman and Isaiah Middleton.

Troy Davis has been on death row for nearly 18 years, after being charged with the murder of Police Officer Mark Allen MacPhail.

Davis was convicted even though no physical evidence linked him to Officer MacPhail's death, and seven of the nine witnesses recanted or contradicted their original testimony; several of

those witnesses say they were coerced.

Prominent politicians and faith leaders, including President Jimmy Carter, Pope Benedict XVI, Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Presidential candidate Bob Barr and former FBI Director and Judge William S. Sessions have all called for Davis to be given a new trial or evidentiary hearing.

A website launched by the NAACP, www.IAMTROY.com, allows people to get involved.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

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