

## An Asylum Hill Visit from the Ivorian Ambassador

Early in December, Georges Annan Kingsley received a phone call from the Ivorian Consulate in New York. It seems that Ambassador CAPET BAKOU and vice consul ABOUI wanted to come to Hartford for a visit. On a recent trip back to Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) earlier this year Georges had connected with some government officials

with the idea of improving trade between the US and Cote d'Ivoire. Now that Georges is a US citizen, he can return to his country of birth with a US passport, a decided advantage. CAPET BAKOU the Consul General (as ambassadors are titled in Cote d'Ivoire) and Vice consul ABOUI along with their driver arrived for their 2-day stay on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup>, and visited with Georges and his family that evening.

With only a few days to arrange an itinerary, Georges turned to fellow AHNA board members and staff to welcome his distinguished guests. To complicate matters even more, they both wanted to meet with the other Ivorians in the area.

While Georges was scheduling that, Jennifer Cassidy, an AHNA board member and good friend of Georges, was able to schedule a visit with Thea Montanez, Mayor Bronin's Chief of Staff. The mayor, unfortunately was out of town.

While we would have liked to have had our guests meet with Megan Clark Torrey, the Executive Director of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut, especially because that weekend was the annual Model United Nations at the University of Hartford, it was not to be. However, they were able to spend the morning visiting both the Mark Twain House and the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, both of which they found very informative and enjoyable. The morning concluded with a luncheon in the Mark Twain carriage house organized by David MacDonald, AHNA's Executive Director, and attended by five of AHNA's board members.

What all of this means, we don't yet know, but Georges is now in Cote d'Ivoire with Consul General CAPET BAKOU. Hopefully we'll hear good news when he returns.

