



History of Anacostia Hours

In January 2005, Sayuri Miyazaki, Betty Scholten, Mary Parker and Stuart Morris met for the first time to consider starting an alternative currency in the Mount Rainier area. They formed the Alternative Currency Study Group and began researching several alternative currencies operating in the United States and abroad. Sayuri showed the group a video, "Ithaca Hours," which documented the establishment and success of a local currency in Ithaca, New York. Ithaca Hours has had a successful operation for fifteen years.

A few months after the study group began, Sandy Smiroldo, Nick Williams, Ligia Stella, Amalie Malochee and Kevin McCarron joined the group. As our process deepened, we became incorporated in the State of Maryland in January 2006 and changed the name of our group to Anacostia Hours, Incorporated. Today, our present board of directors consists of seven of the original nine members of the study group.

We continued to meet regularly, and using

the Ithaca Hours model, we worked on educating ourselves and the people in the communities of Mount Rainier, Hyattsville, Brentwood, and North Brentwood on the benefits of Anacostia Hours. At a meeting held this past August at the Nature Center in Mount Rainier, we presented our plans to the communities with a presentation by Carl Feuer from Ithaca Hours and the Anacostia Hours board members. There was a question and answer session following the presentation and lots of discussion from the audience. Several new members joined at that time.

After much researching, brainstorming, and creating, we used a grant from the Gateway CDC to print the currency. Presently, Anacostia Hours has three denominations—the One-Hour, Half-Hour, and Quarter-Hour. The currency today has been issued to over sixty individuals and businesses. The process of strengthening Anacostia Hours continues as the momentum for the use of the currency grows in our communities.

First Annual Anacostia Hours Membership Meeting and Potluck Luncheon

The board of directors of Anacostia Hours is looking forward to the first annual membership meeting and potluck luncheon. The meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3rd from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm at the Mount Rainier Nature Center located at 4701 31st Place. The board will explain some of the important aspects of membership covered in the bylaws and open the floor for discussion. We want to hear from you regarding suggestions or problems that you have encountered and answer any questions members might have. Most of all, we want members to meet one another and get to know each other better. This is an exciting undertaking that we are part of, and you, the members, are special people with whom we want to connect. As reported in the Communities Exchanges article on page 2, we know some exciting transactions have been made with Anacostia Hours, and we are looking forward to hearing your stories. Please bring a dish to share with other members for the potluck. Additionally, please bring table service. We think it makes sense to take care of our earth as we build community together, and Anacostia Hours can help by not using disposable tableware. We hope to see everyone on the 3rd.

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Welcome New Members!

Anhelika Adams
Hope Bauerlin
Jan Benton
Martin Benton
Wallace Boyd
April Brown
GLUT
April Goodwin
Geannine Gramick
Ayelet Hines
Sam Hussein
Bruce Hutton
Karl C. Jones
Phyllis Jones
Michelle Koopman
Raina Martens
Krista Schyler
Shivali Shah
Fred Sissine
Petra Smith
Jimmy Tarlau
William Updike
Judy Walsh-Mellett

The Anacostan Indian

The Anacostia Quarter Hour note honors original inhabitants of the Anacostia watershed. The Anacostan Indian on the front of the Quarter Hour was drawn by Sayuri Miyazaki, a local artist in Mount Rainier. The name Anacostia is derived from “anaquash-tanik,” which means village trading center, from the Native Americans who lived in the Anacostia watershed. When Europeans first discovered the region in 1608, the area was a settlement of Nacostan or Anacostan Indians, and they lived well there, surviving on an endless supply of rich natural resources of the local forests and healthy streams. According to Gabrielle Tayac, a curator at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, the Anacostan could not withstand the disease epidemics, land loss or trading wars that Europeans visited upon them. The Anacostan disappeared a long time ago, but their spirit of taking care of each other and living in harmony with nature remain among those of us who now live in the Anacostia watershed.



Make No Bones About It: Community Exchanges Enrich Our Lives

“Man is an animal that makes bargains: no other animal does this—no dog exchanges bones with another.” Or so said Adam Smith, the 18th century Scottish philosopher and economist. In recent months, citizens of the Anacostia River watershed have taken Adam Smith to heart, and in seeking to fulfill their daily household needs, have begun exchanges with each other using newly available Anacostia Hours.

To get down to particulars: some of these transactions involved food. For example, a number of customers bought bakery goods from Timmy's Pieces of Peace using Hours. Joe and Patience Robbins, Sayuri and Santana Miyazaki bought bread from Betty Scholten. Mary Parker sold dehydrated crackers for Hours. Nick Williams paid for a meal at the Artmosphere Café in Mount Rainier. And the proprietor of Island Style Ice Cream reports three customers paying in Hours for her products.

The local service sector is also involved. Anacostia Hours have been exchanged for DVD player repair and bike repair. Anna Rain gave a yoga session. Sandy Smirolodo and MJ Park paid for a reflexology session from Patience Robbins. Cat-sitting and baby-sitting services have been

provided for Hours. Ted Porter hired Peter McClintock to fix a table.

Anacostia Hours got plenty of use and exposure at the December 2006 Crafts Sale in Mount Rainier. Several of the artisans and artists displayed signs at their booths announcing acceptance of Anacostia Hours for their wares, and many Hours changed hands. For example, Ligia Williams and Betty Scholten purchased prints from Sayuri and Santana Miyazaki, and Mary Best accepted Anacostia Hours in payment for one of her photographs.

A four-year old girl used Hours to buy two candlesticks, a candle snifter, and a teaspoon at Mount Rainier Antiques Thrift and Salvage, and other Anacostia Hours purchases have been made at the same store.

In short, community exchanges using Anacostia Hours are off and running. More than 100 years ago, economics was dubbed “the dismal science.” Not so with our local currency. Our economists notwithstanding, citizens of the Anacostia watershed are supporting each other with good will and good faith transactions, revealing the resourcefulness and enterprising spirit of local people and the local economy.

**Let us know how you
are using your Hours!**

We'll put it in the next edition of *The Current*.

E-mail information about your transactions to anacostiahours@yahoo.com



While working his table at the Mt. Rainier Crafts Sale, Peter McClintock fans the Anacostia Hours he earned from referring a new member

Anacostia Hours Events

Distribution of the first Anacostia Hours and publishing of the Pioneers Directory has led to a flurry of activities during the last few months. We have promoted our local currency at several events, and we have received much positive feedback.

Even before the distribution of the Hours, members of the board had a booth at the Coop America Green Festival held at the Convention Center in D.C. on October 14th and 15th. We shared a booth with Emma's Revolution and hundreds of people stopped to talk, ask questions and encourage us. We distributed brochures and had copies of our new directory for people's perusal.

On November 4th, at the invitation of Pastor Don Monroe of the University Park Church of the Brethren, Nick Williams and Ligia Stella took Anacostia Hours to the church's Community Conversation on Sustainable Living. The church is interested in becoming involved in our project, and there were many questions from local business people.

On November 2nd, Catherine Citroni, from the University of Maryland cable TV station did her final taping of a program about Anacostia Hours. Her first take was an interview with Sayuri Miyazaki and Nick Williams, which took place at Artmosphere Café. Ms. Citroni again appeared at the Green Festival where she shot our booth and conducted another interview. Finally, on the 2nd she filmed two transactions using Anacostia Hours. Everyone was really looking forward to seeing this documentary, but we have recently learned that Ms. Citroni's tape was stolen and that it is unlikely that she will be able to re-shoot the footage.

Finally, on December 2nd, Anacostia Hours was part of the annual Mount Rainier Community Crafts Sale, which was held in the new Joe's Movement Emporium. Everyone who helped enjoyed the wonderful spirit of the event. Many people stopped by to talk and fifteen new members filled out applications, paid their fees and received Anacostia Hours. We felt it was a great success!

**The First Annual
Anacostia Hours
Membership Meeting and
Potluck Luncheon
Will Be Held
Saturday
February 3rd**



**Where: Mount Rainier
Nature Center
4701 31st Place
Mount Rainier, MD**

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Please bring a dish to share

**Don't forget to bring
your own table service!**

New Referral Program

There's a buzz on the streets that the two Hours issued to new members is not enough to satisfy the initial demands for Hours. Ideally, members should actively promote their goods and services to earn more Hours, but the board felt that some sort of program was needed to jump start the circulation of Hours. In December, a referral program was implemented as temporary way for members to earn Hours. From now until March 21st, members will receive 2 Hours for each new member that they refer. It is very easy to do and a great way to earn Hours. Members must submit a referral form to receive their 2 Hours. Referral forms can be downloaded from our website at anacostiahours.org. You can also receive a referral form via email. Just send a request for a form to anacostiahours@yahoo.com and start thinking about how you are going to spend your Hours. For additional information, call (301) 927-6216.

The HOURS Bank

Would you like to have two Half-Hours for the One-Hour note that you have? Visit the Hours Bank in Dar Es Salaam Books and Health Center and trade Hours for smaller or larger denominations. The Bank also replaces damaged notes. Dar Es Salaam is located at 3830 34th Street in Mount Rainier. The hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 10 am - 7 pm and Sunday, 11 am - 5 pm.

Has Your Contact or Listing Information Changed?

Please contact us if:

1. Your postal address, e-mail address or phone number changes.
2. Your listings become obsolete.
3. You want to change the wording of your listings.

Looking for an up-to-date copy of the Hours Directory?

Want to know about upcoming Hours potlucks and other events?

Need a copy of the Referral form?

visit us at anacostiahours.org

Corrections to the Pioneers Directory of Goods and Services

Telephone Number Changes:

Dar Es Salaam (240) 667-2299

Mimi McKindley-Ward (301) 927-1720

E-Mail Address Changes:

surabhi_shah@bellsouth.net



**Look for This Sign
Around Town!**

How to Get More Hours

➤ **Ask for Change in Hours**

Even if you are not regularly earning Anacostia Hours, you could be an important member in this community-enrichment system. Please ask for Anacostia Hours as part of your change from businesses accepting Anacostia Hours. Taking change in Anacostia Hours will help circulate Hours throughout the community.

➤ **Participate in The Referral Program**

Encourage friends and neighbors to join and receive 2 Hours for each new member that you refer. Members must complete a referral form, which is available online at anacostiahours.org.

➤ **Advertise Your Goods and Services in the Directory**

Promote your goods and services with an advertisement in the Directory. Only \$10 for a business card-size ad!



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