

Press Release

Little Cayman District Committee of the National Trust For The Cayman Islands

Blossom Village, Little Cayman, Cayman Islands, 7 December 2020- The Little Cayman District Committee of the National Trust For The Cayman Islands is very pleased to announce the most generous donation by Mrs. Brigitte Kassa of US \$200,000 for the purchase of 17 acres of environmentally and ecologically important land in Little Cayman. The parcel adjoins another Trust held property on the Nature Trail at the west end of the island interior and nearly doubles the contiguous protected area at a time when pressures of speculative real estate development are increasing. The parcel lies in prime Sister Islands Rock Iguana habitat and may contain historic artifacts from the phosphate mining industry that was on the island at the end of the 1800s.

Mrs. Kassa is a long time resident of Little Cayman having settled on the island with her late husband Basil in 1973 when there were fewer than 20 inhabitants. She is a founding member of the Little Cayman District Committee and a Life member of the National Trust. She has always been an enthusiastic and extremely active member from staffing the Trust House to setting up for the annual Easter Auction and Christmas Bazaar and attending regular Committee meetings. She even assisted with the construction of the Gladys Howard Visitors Center in the 1990s, doing everything including painting and operating heavy equipment, lifting the roof trusses in place with her backhoe.

She has been extremely generous to the Trust over the years with substantial monetary and several other land donations in the past. Her selfless volunteering and generosity stem from her desire to preserve and protect the unique flora, fauna and pristine environment of her home, Little Cayman.

While she has dedicated much of her time and efforts to conservation it is by no means her only interest and Brigitte has led a well lived, colourful life which she chronicles in her autobiography, "From Coffee to Champagne, to Coconuts." From her childhood in war torn Berlin in World War II to her glamorous youth as a nightclub owner in Monte Carlo to her global travels with her husband to her pioneering settling in a remote corner of the Caribbean, find out why Little Cayman is her greatest love. All proceeds from the sale of the book also go to the Little Cayman District Committee land fund and it can be ordered from all of the online booksellers including Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

The Little Cayman District Committee of the Trust and The National Trust For The Cayman Islands sincerely thank Brigitte for her selfless efforts, dedication and uncommon generosity in helping to preserve and protect the special natural environment of Little Cayman for present and future generations of Caymanians.

Photo L to R- Mrs. Brigitte Kassa, Ms. Betty Bua-Smith (Vice Chair, Little Cayman District Committee of the National Trust), Mr. Gregory S. McTaggart (Chairman, Little Cayman District Committee of the National Trust)