



The CHACONIA

The TTAO Newsletter

November 2012

Volume 4, Number 1

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Committees

Chairpersons

Cultural and Recreation

Joanne Merridith and Earlvyn Dyer

Finance and Fundraising

Dennison Noel

PR and Communication

Brenda Agard Alleyne and Carol Joseph

Social

Ingrid Jean-Baptiste and Carol Joseph

Contact Us

tandtassociation@gmail.com

info@ttaa.ca

or

The Trinidad and Tobago
Association of Ottawa
P.O. Box 8401, Station T
Ottawa, Ontario , K1G 3H8

From the President's Pen



The year 2011-2012 has come to an end and with it the culmination of a flurry of activities marking the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the independence of Trinidad & Tobago. Sincere thanks to those of you who contributed to and participated in these events.

On October 5, 2012 at the Annual General Meeting of the TTAO a new Executive was elected (see list below). The Executive and some representatives from the general membership subsequently met on Sunday, October 21, 2012 to develop a strategic plan of action for the year 2012-2013. The goals and objectives include but are not limited to a review of the constitution, enhanced visibility in the mainstream community and the development of relationships with funding organizations/companies. As well, TTAO will continue to foster partnerships with "Trini-centric" and other Caribbean organizations to host activities which we believe are of interest to our members and the wider diaspora e.g. proposed Health Seminar in partnership with the National Institute of Jamaican-Canadians in April 2013. Further on in this newsletter you will be provided with a listing of the suggested activities for the year.

Plans are in development to support the work of our fellow national, Dr. Gyaandeo Maharajh, MDCM; FRCSC. Chief, Division Of Cardiovascular Surgery, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Twice a year, Dr. Maharajh travels to Trinidad and performs surgery on children in the country. (see article in the Ottawa Citizen)

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/devotions+Maharajh/1786706/story.html#ixz22BTauLHeI>). In some cases, based on the specific needs of the patients, arrangements are made for the surgery to be performed in Ottawa. As this is a very costly venture for many families, the Executive has made the decision to use our charitable account to reservoir funds that are raised to help these patients. You will be kept informed as to how you could contribute to this worthy cause.

We are looking forward to an exciting year and we invite you members, fellow nationals and friends to participate in and lend your support to the various activities hosted by the TTAO and/or its various partners.

On your behalf, I offer sincere thanks to the 2011-2012 Executive and Committee members who worked diligently to make the year the overwhelming success that it was.

Sincerely,

Ingrid John-Baptiste (President)

Trinidad and Tobago
celebrates 50 years
of Independence on
August 31, 2012.

(1962 – 2012)

A reason to celebrate
and be proud.

General Meeting(GM)

Sunday December 9, 2012

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Time: TBD

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TTAO Executives and Committees

We are proud to introduce the TTAO Executives and the committees for the 2012-2013 year. They have commenced planning for an engaging, health conscious and culturally satisfying year ahead.

These are your 2012-2013 TTAO Executives:

President - Ingrid John-Baptiste

Vice-President - Earlvin "Joe" Dyer

Treasurer - Dennison Noel

Secretary - Joanne Meredith

Assistant-Secretary - Brenda Agard Alleyne

3 Floor members - Anne-Marie Bostic, Carmen Dyer and Judy Madhosingh

We would also like to give our sincere thanks to the past Executives who have made it possible for us to continue enhancing the TTAO.

These were your 2011-2012 TTAO Executives:

President - Ingrid John-Baptiste

Vice-President - Earlvin "Joe" Dyer

Treasurer - Dennison Noel

Secretary - Brenda Agard Alleyne

Assistant-Secretary - Jennifer Wilson

3 Floor members - Anne-Marie Bostic, Janelle John and Alfredo Walker

Our standing committees for 2012-2013 are as follows:

The **Membership Committee** will be overseen by the members of the Executive committee. The mandate of the Membership Committee is to inform members of the aims and objectives of the TTAO, advise them of their membership benefits and expand the number of members.

The **Culture & Recreation Committee** is now fully functional with a team of enthusiastic, dedicated and hard-working members. Chairpersons are Joanne Meredith and Earlvin Dyer. Members are Joanne John, Marilyn Wilson, Nira Dookeran, Judy Madhoosingh, Theresa Mc Quilkin, Glen Mason and Pat Cholmondeley.

The **Finance and Fundraising Committee** will be co-chaired by Dennison Noel and is still looking for another co-chair. This committee will be reviewing the TTAO financial processes and launching activities to raise much needed funds for our Scholarship and Charitable Funds.

The **Public Relations (PR) and Communications Committee** will be co-chaired by Brenda Agard Allyene and Carol Joseph. The mandate of the committee is to broaden the TTAO's visibility and promote the Association's activities to forge stronger ties with and among its members and the general public. They will continue to produce the Chaconia Newsletter to keep you informed of the TTAO and community activities.

The Social Committee will be co-chaired by Ingrid John-Baptiste and Carol Joseph along with the following members: Anne-Marie Bostic,

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Carmen Dyer, David Bostic, Lena Baptiste, Maurice Taitt, Earlvyn Dyer and Dennison Noel. The mandate of the Social Committee is to organize and execute events hosted by the TTAO with efficiency and fiscal responsibility, while respecting the guiding principles that are reflective of the Association. Events are already being planned so keep an eye out for upcoming activities.

Your participation on any one of our committees is always welcome. Please contact us if any peaks your interest.

TTAO Activities for 2012-2013

Proposed Activities and dates:

General Meeting (GM) – December 9, 2012

Holiday Season Soirée - Dec 29, 2012

Continue to spread the holiday joy with us.

Health Seminar - April 6 or 13, 2013

In partnership with National institute of Jamaica-Canadians. More details will be released in the coming months.

COM-FETE – March 23 or 30, 2013

In partnership with Carivibe, another evening of comedy and great entertainment is back by popular demand.

General Meeting (GM) – April 5, 2013

The Merikins: The Forgotten Fighters – Screening of this documentary will be arranged at one of the planned General Meetings.

This DVD documentary was loaned to The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa by the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission in Ottawa. The documentary was compiled in a venture jointly supported by the High Commission of Canada, the British High Commission and the Embassy of the United States in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The film traces the history of the Merikins, descendants of slaves who were granted freedom after fighting for the British in the War of 1812 between the United States and Britain. The African-American slaves journeyed to Trinidad via Canada and Bermuda.

Indian arrival day - May 25, 2013

In partnership with the Caribbean Hummingbirds.

Trinidad and Tobago Day at the Races - June 21, 2013

General Meeting (GM) – July 5, 2013

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2nd annual TrinbaGold Day - July 27, 2013

The first was such a smashing success we thought we'd repeat it.

Picnic and Family day – July 14, 2013

CARIVIBE Parade – TBD

Independence Day Gala – September 7, 2013

Come celebrate our 51st year of independence with us.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – September 13, 2013

Update from past Events:

TrinbaGold 50 Day – August 25, 2012

As a first time event, Trinbagold 50 Day was an overwhelming success. In excess of 200 persons were in attendance, amongst them some distinguished guests including Mayor Jim Watson, Yasir Naqvi, MPP for Ottawa Centre and Mr. Keith Kerwood of the office of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission of Canada.

Guests were greeted at the entrance with the sound of real Trini music provided by Jerry and his wife while Nepean Pan Harmonic steelband provided sweet pan music inside throughout the day. Further entertainment included two spoken word artistes, Joanne John and Anthony Bansfield (nth digri), who both did double duty as M.Cs, as well as dancers from the Cultural Arts Studio School of Afro-Caribbean Dance. There were also three presentations on the history of the steelpan delivered by Ian Jones and supported by the Nepean Pan Harmonic steelband. Ian is an acclaimed pannist and musical arranger from Toronto. Face painting and storytelling were available to keep the young ones entertained and engaged.

Mugena satiated the tastebuds of adults and children alike with a delicious array of Trini foods such as roti, oil down and bhaji and rice which was then "washed down" by beverages supplied by two of our sponsors, Angostura and Carib.

Guests were invited to visit the sponsored booths hosted by CUSO, RBC Dominion Securities, Grace Kennedy, Bridlewood Retirement Home, OHCC, The Trinidad & Tobago High Commission, Angostura and Carib. TrinbaGold 50 jerseys were also on sale and there are still a few available if you missed out.

To put an exclamation on the day, our resident D.J. David Supersound generously donated his talent during the event and had the diverse crowd swaying to the beat of soca and calypso at every opportunity.

Here is the list of lucky prize winners that day:

- Fajer Al-Shammari** - Return trip to Montreal donated by Voyages G Travel
- Barbara Edwards** - Gift Basket donated by Grace Kennedy
- Ursula Dunford** - Gift Basket donated by Angostura
- Barbara Edwards** - 1824 Angostura Rum donated by The Trinidad & Tobago High Commission
- Velta George** - 1919 Premium Rum donated by The Trinidad & Tobago High Commission

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Trinbagold 50 Independence Gala – September 1, 2012

What a spectacular culmination to the celebrations of the Trinidad and Tobago fiftieth year of Independence. Seated in the prestigious Ottawa room of the Ottawa Convention Centre were close to 300 guests, including the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, H.E. Philip Buxo and Mrs. Kereane Buxo, the Consulate General Dr. Vidya Tota-Maharaj, representatives from various levels of government in Ottawa, members of the diplomatic core and nationals and friends of Trinidad and Tobago.

M.Cs Sarah Onyango and Naz Deen were aptly chosen to guide us through the evening's proceedings.

Speakers included, Dr. Rudolph (Rudy) Ormsby Gittens, Orthopedic Surgeon & Sports Medicine Consultant, Dr. Gyaandeo Maharajh, Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, H.E. Mr. Philip Buxo, the High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Honorable Senator, Reverend Don Meredith (Ontario), Ottawa City Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Mr. Eli El-Chantiry and Mrs. Ingrid John-Baptiste, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa. Miss Joanne St-Lewis was the keynote speaker.

The Toronto-based Pan Jazz duo of Gareth Burgess and Keith Dindayal provided scintillating music during the cocktail hour, played the national anthems of Trinidad and Tobago and Canada to begin the nights proceedings and was part of the general entertainment of the night. Further entertainment was provided by dancer, Miss Camille Lewis and members of the Cultural Arts Studio School of Afro-Caribbean Dance.

Deservingly, the President of The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa, Mrs. Ingrid John-Baptiste was presented with a United Way Community Builder Award to a rousing standing ovation and her utter surprise.

After the blessing of the meal by Les Kumar-Misir, guests settled down to enjoy a delicious meal and great conversation.

Some very lucky guests left the gala with valuable door and raffle prizes donated by our generous sponsors

A vote of thanks by Keith Anatol concluded the formal part of the evening. The dance floor then became instantly crowded as guests swayed to the music of D.J. David Supersound to punctuate a series of successful events hosted by the Association to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

For an up-to-date listing of upcoming activities please visit our website www.ttaa.ca. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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Did you Know?

One of the world's most famous costume artists is **Peter Minshall**, otherwise known as 'Mas Man', who grew up in Port-of-Spain.



At an early age Minshall was exposed to Carnival and made his first costume at thirteen. After graduating from Queen's Royal College, he left Trinidad to study Theatre Design at the Central School of Art and Design in London and went on to receive unanimous critical praise for his professional theatre design work both in England and the United States.

In 1974 he created his seminal individual work *From the Land of the Hummingbird* for the Trinidad Carnival. Then, in 1976 he designed "*Paradise Lost*" for Stephen Lee Heung, which won the Band of the Year title. On his own, he started with a band called Zodiac that achieved broad critical acclaim in 1979 when its "*Carnival of the Sea*", won in all the categories.

Minshall has presented a mas' at each Carnival from 1978 through 1990, and again in 1993, 1994, and 1995, costuming some two thousand people in anywhere from thirty to one hundred different designs. He makes the streets of Port-of-Spain his stage during Carnival with unique designs that feature "dancing mobiles." He claims that mas--"living art that we make fresh every year"--is the truest artistic expression of Trinidad. "Our aesthetic is performance, the living now." A major aim of his life's work has been to prove that mas can be "high" art, as capable of the sublime or the universal as any other art form.

In addition to designing mas, Minshall has worked on a variety of performance projects. In 1985, he led *Adoration of Hiroshima*, a nuclear protest mas', in Washington D.C. He helped design the opening awards ceremonies for the 1987 Pan American Games, the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the 1994 Football World Cup and the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. He also collaborated with Jean Michel Jarre, once in 1990 on *Paris la Defense*, and again in 1995 on the *Concert For Tolerance*. Minshall's creations have also been on display and at the opening ceremony of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007.

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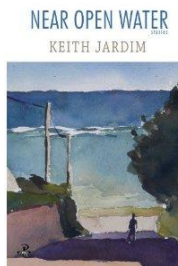
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A documentary about Minshall titled Mas Man—The Complete Work, by filmmaker Dalton Narine is currently being screened and winning awards at film festivals around the world.

On the Bookshelf...Interesting Reads:

For Adults:

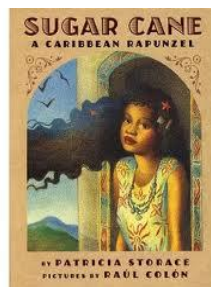


Near Open Water: Stories by Keith Jardim

Near Open Water, a collection of short stories by Trinidadian/Guyanese writer Keith Jardim, features a series of Caribbean stories that are disturbing in their honesty and focus a sharp yet intimate eye upon the people of the Caribbean. The characters face problems of freedom, history, race, class, violence, entrapment, and morality. Sparing no feeling, Jardim captures the humour, sadness, irony and horror of Trinidad society. Unflinching in its portrayal of the realities of Caribbean life, these dark short stories also find solace in the natural beauty of the region, a place where real people struggle to survive in what was once perceived as paradise.

(Available for purchase online at Chapters and Amazon)

For Children:



Sugar Cane: A Caribbean Rapunzel by Patricia Storage

Stolen away from her parents on her first birthday by island sorceress Madam Fate, beautiful Sugar Cane grows up in a tower overlooking the sea. With only a pet green monkey named Callaloo for company, Sugar

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Cane is lonely—her only consolation is her love of music. Often she stands at her window and sings, imagining that the echo of her voice is someone answering her. Then one night, someone does hear her song, but could this young man with a gift for music break the spell of Madam Fate and help Sugar Cane set herself free? In her first book for children, award-winning poet Storace moves the story of Rapunzel to a sun-drenched Caribbean island teeming with magic.

(Available through the Ottawa Public Library and for purchase online at Amazon)

What's on Around Town!

Tune in:

Saturdays - CHUO 89.1FM (www.chuo.fm) and CKCU 93.1FM (www.ckcufm.com)

African, Caribbean and Latin American music and news.

Joe Sounds Calypso Oldies: Internet Radio featuring Calypso, Soca, Reggae www.LIVE365.com

Bridging The Gap(s) Variety Show - Sunday, November 25th, 2012

Location: Bronson Centre, Mac Hall - 211 Bronson Ave.,

Doors opens at: 2 PM, Showtime 2:30 PM.

For further information & tickets contact: 613-739-0070, 613-850-0780 or 613-261-7806

Black Canadian Scholarship Fund(BCSF) Annual December Dinner and Dance – December 1, 2012

Location: Ottawa City Hall – Jean Pigott Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. West.,

Doors open at 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7pm

Tickets : \$65.00

For further information and tickets contact: 613-225-8018, 613-729-1980, 613-620-1382, 613-523-0541, 613-244-4457 or visit

www.bcsf.ca

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Inspiration Corner...



50 going strong

From the past to the future to the present beyond
See we, at 50, going strong
From the past to the future, and together beyond
See we, at 50, going strong

F

If the Taino never cross the bocas
Arima won't have its cultural focus
And if you don't have the ships of the Spanish
Christmas won't have a parring chorus

I

I am from the blood of Guinea, Ashanti
I am drumbeat, and tales of Anansi
I rise from a graveyard transatlantic
Rise like Maroon from the cane I planting

F

If the French never come and settle
Would we play mas for Carnival?
And if you don't have Indian Arrival
No roti or cultivation in Central!

T

T and T is where the people mingling
Making sugar for the tea that they love in England
But after the war, the movement building
In man like Butler, James, and Williams

Y

Why the dream to achieve so strong?
Why the beauty of the pan and the kaiso song?
Why the dream to aspire still going strong?
Why the journey sweet when the road hard and long?

From the past to the future to the present beyond
See we, at 50, going strong
From the past to the future, and together beyond
See we, at 50, going strong

By A. Bansfield, 2012

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Call for New Members

To enhance what the TTAO can do for the community, we need your support. Support us by becoming a member. New members are always welcome! Does an event or committee peak your interest? If you are 16 years of age or older, looking to get involved, then consider becoming a member and joining a committee that interests you the most.

Feedback

Interested in contributing to the next newsletter? Would you like to provide comments or suggestions to the TTAO? Send us an email, write us a letter or put a posting on our Facebook page and tell us what you think!



The Trinidad & Tobago Association
of Ottawa

2012 HOLIDAY SEASON SOIRÉE

You are invited to
dance the night away
to the music of
DJ DAVID SUPERSOUND



Chimo Hotel

1199 Joseph Cvr Street, Gloucester
(Opposite to St Laurent Shopping Centre)

9:00pm - 1:00am

Saturday, December 29, 2012



Admission:
\$20.00 In advance
\$25.00 At the door
Dress: Semi-formal

For information:

★ 613 - 850 - 0870 ★
★ 613 - 834 - 1718 ★
★ 613 - 834 - 4282 ★