



The CHACONIA

The TTAO Newsletter

April 2013

Volume 4, Number 2

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Committees

Chairpersons

Cultural and Recreation

Joanne Merridith and Earlvin Dyer

Finance and Fundraising

Dennison Noel

PR and Communication

Brenda Agard Alleyne and Carol Joseph

Social

Ingrid John-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

Members and Friends,

The arrival of Spring 2013 heralds a busy round of activities that have been planned for the members and friends of the Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa (TTAO). The Executive and various Committees have been diligently engaged over the past few months discussing and developing implementation plans and some modifications have been made to the original list of activities published in our November newsletter. These include:

- Rescheduled dates for the Trinidad and Tobago Night at the Races and TrinbaGold Day
- A new partnership and date for our Family Day Picnic

Full details are published further on in this newsletter.

The TTAO has been following through with its commitment to support the activities of our sister organizations. To this end, we have ensured representation at celebrations hosted by the Guyana Ottawa Association, the St. Lucia Ottawa Association and the Jamaica Ottawa Association. We urge you whenever possible to lend your support to events hosted by organizations within the Caribbean diaspora.

In its continuing effort to develop an effective working relationship with all levels of the Trinidad and Tobago government in Canada, TTAO continues to be a conduit for distributing information to the wider Trinbagonian community. To this end, we have been assisting the Trinidad and Tobago Consulate with regard to its outreach program, through which nationals residing outside of the Toronto area can have their applications for new machine Readable Passports processed in their city of residence or nearby. The Consulate personnel will be visiting Ottawa in early April.

TTAO also responded to a request from the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission, as we notified nationals about the contingent of designers from the University of Trinidad and Tobago. Caribbean Academy of Fashion Design who participated in Ottawa Fashion Week 2013.

As the year of activities unfold, we look forward to your continued patronage and support. Our main fundraising event for this year, will be a Trinidad and Tobago Night at the Races. This event will be hosted in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission. This fun evening will take place at the Rideau Carleton Raceway, 4837 Albion Road, on Thursday June 27, 2013. This is a first for the association, so please ensure that you save the date, spread the word and make a concerted effort to attend.

If you are interested in assisting with any of our activities and events, please feel free to contact a committee member directly or send an email to tandtassociation@gmail.com.

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

(1962 – 2012)

A reason to celebrate
and be proud.

General Meeting(GM)

Friday April 5, 2013

Location: Overbrook Community
Centre, 33 Quill St, Ottawa

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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Sincerely,



Ingrid John-Baptiste (President)

TTAO Executive and Committees

We are proud to introduce the TTAO Executive 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 Executive:

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

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 McQuilkin, 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, Carmen Dyer, David Bostic, Lena Baptiste, Maurice Taitt, Earlvin 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.

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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) – April 5, 2013

Overbrook Community Centre, 33 Quill St, Ottawa at 6:30 p.m.
Directions Vanier Parkway North, Right at Queen Mary and Left on Quill
(first building on the right).

Health Seminar: Good Companions Centre, 670 Albert Street – April 13, 2013

Hosted in partnership with the National Institute of Jamaican-Canadians
and Jaku Konbit. "You Are NOT Alone" is a health seminar on
Alzheimer's, Mental Illness and Loneliness/Isolation, featuring
information booths and presentations. Admission is FREE but donations
will be gladly accepted. Pre-registration is required. (See flyer further on
in this newsletter)

Indian arrival day - May 25, 2013

Details available from members of the Caribbean Hummingbirds and the
flyer at the end of the

TTAO Night at the Races: Rideau Carleton Raceway, 4837 Albion Road - June 27, 2013

Co-hosted with the **Trinidad & Tobago High Commission**

Family Day Picnic: Petrie Island, Orleans - July 28, 2013

The TTAO and Hurricane Sports Club will be holding the annual Family
Day Picnic simultaneously with Club S.O.C.C.A's Kites for Cancer. What a
great way to support each other!!!

TrinbaGold Day: Good Companions Centre, 670 Albert Street - August 24, 2013 :

This was such a resounding success last year that we have decided to
host it again. Bring the entire family for an afternoon of fun and
entertainment.

Independence Dinner-Dance: Tudor Hall, 3750 N. Bowesville Rd. Ottawa - September 7, 2013

A very special guest speaker is being lined up for this event so you don't
want to miss it!

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – September 13, 2013

Time and Location to be determined.

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

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Did you Know...?

"...fashion in the Caribbean is Trinidad Fashion." - Claudia Pegus, Fashion Designer

The Trinidad & Tobago Ministry of Industry, Investment and Trade hired a Toronto based social media company - Wedge 15 - to produce a 12 minute mini documentary on Trinidad and Tobago's fashion industry. The Haute Caribe video was launched on the internet in November 2012 and features noted designers – Meiling, Claudia Pegus, Robert Young, Anya Young Chee - and up-and-coming designers - Keegan Simon, Lori-Antoinette Williams - discussing the past, present, and future of Caribbean fashion in Trinidad and Tobago. The brand of Caribbean fashion is increasing on the international stage, and has had an influence on the fashion world for some time. From Carnival to the runway, the world is taking note of Caribbean fashion. The video highlights the beauty and breadth of Caribbean fashion, with snippet interviews fused with catwalk images and splashes of island life. Haute Caribe can be viewed on-line at the following link: <http://vimeo.com/51185557>.

AND ...

Wedge 15, the Toronto-based social media company that produced Haute Caribe, is run by the husband and wife team of Gloria Roheim McRae and Ricardo McRae. Ricardo, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, is a successful social entrepreneur and the Executive Director of Who's Who in Black Canada.com, the largest online network of Black professionals in the country. He is also one of the co-founders of the Blue Devil Mas, a group dedicated to preserving the pure traditions of J'ouvert in Toronto's Caribana Parade.

On the Bookshelf...Interesting Reads:

For Children:

***Boy Boy and the Magic Drum* by Machel Montano,**

Written by one of the Caribbean's most popular and sought after soca artists, this story - set in Trinidad & Tobago - is about innovation, saving the environment and the steel pan, of one little boy's dream of making music on his magic drum.

As the story unfolds, Boy Boy is experiencing the unhappy effects of industrialization on his small island, as pollution from The Factory threatens the beauty of his Land. When suddenly The Factory shuts

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down, the island is thrown into despair. But, one day as Boy Boy is wandering about at a garbage site, he stumbles across an old man making music on a discarded oil drum from The Factory, and marvels at the incredible sounds emanating from this piece of steel! The man and the drum forever change Boy Boy's world. The message of this story is carried by text that sometimes imitates the sounds of the steel pan and by delightful illustrations which capture the movement of the soca music on the accompanying CD.

For Adults:

***Light Falling on Bamboo* by Lawrence Scott**

From an acclaimed, prize-winning Trinidadian author comes an epic interracial period piece dramatizing the life of a 19th-century colonial artist.

After receiving a gentleman's education in Europe, landscape artist Michel Jean Cazabon returns home to Trinidad in 1848 in time for his mother's death, and discovers the changes to his island since the emancipation of slaves. Plantation owners and colonial administrators still hold the power, leaving freed blacks and "coloreds" not quite free; the idealism of revolutionary Paris now seems a dream away and his French wife and children are waiting to join him on the island. The busy working artist makes friends with the governor and English colonial settlers and secures commissions and painting lessons, but his sensual desires always threaten to compromise his prospects. His career may prosper, but he is more worried about his white wife's reaction to a family secret kept hidden by his father, mother, and a corrupted colonial island. Caught in the sweep of history and his own intimate dramas, Michel Jean paints the figures in the landscape and the dappled light as it falls through the bamboo grove.

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In Memory of...

During the month of January, The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa lost two of its long time members, Gene Trotman and Lillian Pierre. Here is an insight into the life of these two people.



Gene Thornton Trotman, Queens Counsel

Gene Trotman, QC, B.A., L.L.B, L.L.M, was Senior General Counsel at Energy, Mines and Resources until April 2005 after which he was appointed a Vice-Chair of the Ontario Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal, a position that he held until his passing. He had served 41 years with the Department of Justice.

As counsel and Director of Legal Services with the Department of Justice, Gene negotiated several contracts between the Canadian government and foreign governments and their entities. He became actively involved in Alternative Dispute Resolution and was instrumental in the resolution of several national and international disputes. He travelled around the world as one of Her Majesty's senior counsel.

Gene was awarded the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture Gold Pin for 15 years of volunteerism, and the Governor General's medal on Canada's 125th anniversary in recognition of his significant contribution to his community and his country. After completing a distinguished 40-year career with the Federal Public Service, Gene was appointed a Vice-Chair of the Ontario Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal, a position that he held until his passing. Gene served as a mentor to many young lawyers both inside and outside of the Department of Justice.

Gene was an avid gardener and always impeccably dressed.

He will be sadly missed by his loving and devoted wife Gerrie, his children Tanis, Lisa, and Ezra



Lilian Elaine Pierre (1916-2013)
Order of Merit (Gold)
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Lilian passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 28th, 2013 at Starwood Nursing Home.

Trained as a dietician and nutritionist in London England immediately after the war, Lilian toured extensively war-torn Europe, especially France, Norway and Sweden. Returning to Trinidad she became actively involved in voluntary work with the Coterie of Social Workers.

Additionally, she was an enthusiastic supporter of the Union of Women Citizens, the Soroptimist Club, the League of Women Voters and the Muslim Womens' League. She also found time to volunteer with the National Red Cross and the YWCA. In 1956 Lilian entered the Civil Service of Trinidad and Tobago as Manager of the Nurses Hostel at the Port of Spain General Hospital, retiring from that position in 1976. For her dedicated volunteering and civil service work she was awarded the Order of Merit (Gold) by a grateful nation.

Lilian was the sister of our Vincent & Marily Wilson and the aunt of our immediate Assistant Secretary Jennifer Wilson.

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

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!

National Institute of Jamaican-Canadians,
The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa
& Jaku Konbit *PRESENT*

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

*Alzheimer's
*Mental Health * Loneliness/Isolation*

Information booths and presentations
to answer your every question

The Good Companion Centre

670 Albert Street

APRIL 13, 2013: 10am – 3pm

Admission is free – Donations accepted

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER by calling:

613-739-0955, 613-834-1718, 613-731-5371, 613- 883-1974

The deadline for registration is April 7, 2013





Join us to celebrate **Indian Arrival**
Day

Saturday, May 25th

6:00pm-1:00am

Enjoy dinner with live entertainment and
dance with **DJ Sunshine International**



Partial proceeds to **CFO**

Adult: \$25 | Youth (7-12): \$10 | 6 and under:
free

* Dance only from 9:00pm – 1:00am - \$10 *

Westboro Masonic Temple
430 Churchill Avenue, Ottawa, ON
K1Z 5C9

Hosted by: **Caribbean Hummingbirds &**



Trinidad & Tobago
Association of Ottawa

For information & tickets please call:

Judy 613-721-0424 | Jay 613-800-1240 | Nanda
613-255-7341

