



The CHACONIA

The TTAO Newsletter

December 2014

Volume 6, Number 1

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TTAO Committees

Chairpersons

Cultural and Education

Joanne Meredith

Finance and Fundraising

Anne-Marie Bostic

PR, Communication & Membership

Brenda Agard Alleyne, Carol Joseph
& Joel Murray

Social

Ingrid John-Baptiste

Recreation

Earlvin Dyer & Pat Cholmondeley

From the President's Pen

Members and Friends,



The 2013-2014 year has come to an end and we now look forward to 2014-2015 with the same energy and excitement as last year. Your executive and committees will be extremely busy as always planning events which we hope you will appreciate and participate in. Of course, we are always happy to hear any suggestions you may have or events you may wish to help coordinate.

On Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the Annual General Meeting, a new executive was elected (see list below). The new Executive Committee along with the Social Committee and a few members from the general membership gathered on Sunday, November 9, 2014 to plan the specific activities we wish to host for 2014-2015. Last year, as part of its varied program of activities, the TTAO hosted, for the first time, a Children's Christmas Party on the premises of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission (TTHC). The event was so well received and greatly appreciated that it was deemed one of the more successful events for the year. As it was decided to host the event again this year, it became a top priority as it was scheduled to be held on Sunday December 7, 2014. (See a report on this event later on in this newsletter).

It has been suggested that the TTAO hold an event in the Spring to include attendance by the more senior members of the organization. We are still working on the details but the preferred month for this "Spring Fling" is April 2015 and it will be held in the afternoon.

As well, some time in June, the TTAO is planning to host a casino night. You will be provided with the details once progress is made on finalization. An old event will be hosted in a new month as TrinbaGo Day has been moved to July 25, 2015 in order to synchronize it with the Pan Am Games, which is being held in Toronto that same month.

As in the past, we will be partnering with some of our Trini-based organizations to host events which you appear to enjoy. The Family Fun Day, slated for July 26, 2015, will once again coincide with Kites for Cancer hosted by Club S.O.C.C.A with support from the Hurricanes Soccer Club. Our celebration in honour of Trinidad and Tobago's 53rd year of independence will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015, at a venue to be determined.

We encourage you to visit our Facebook page (Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa - TTAO), our website at ttaa.ca or contact us by

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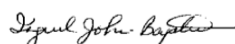
email at tandtassociation@gmail.com for further details on our planned events.

The TTAO executive and committee members will continue to lend support to events hosted by our sister organizations by ensuring representation. In order to garner support we must give support so our commitment in this regard remains unchanged.

This edition of The Chaconia newsletter has a Christmas theme, in keeping with the festive season, so we have tried to include subjects along this line. We hope that you enjoy our publication.

In closing, on behalf of the TTAO's executive, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and blessed Christmas and a New Year that is bright, prosperous and healthy.

Sincerely,



Ingrid John-Baptiste (President)

TTAO Executive and Committees

Please welcome the TTAO Executive and the committees for the 2014-2015 year. They are planning for another engaging, health conscious and culturally satisfying year.

This is your 2014-2015 TTAO Executive:

President - Ingrid John-Baptiste

Vice-President - Earlvin (Joe) Dyer

Treasurer - Anne-Marie Bostic

Secretary - Brenda Agard Alleyne

Assistant-Secretary - Joanne Meredith

3 Floor members - Carmen Dyer, Judy Madhosingh and Jassodra Rampersad

Our standing committees for 2014-2015 are as follows:

The **Culture & Education Committee** will be chaired by Joanne Meredith. The mandate of this committee is to ensure that the cultural aspect are included and promoted within our activities. They will be assisting in planning the upcoming Health Seminar in collaboration with other community organizations.

The **Finance and Fundraising Committee** will be reviewing the TTAO financial processes and launching activities to raise much needed funds for our CLR Scholarship Fund.

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The **Public Relations (PR), Communications & Membership Committee** will be co-chaired by Brenda Agard Alleyne, Carol Joseph and Joel Murray. 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. This will be our first publication of the new year.

The Social Committee will be chaired by Ingrid John-Baptiste. 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.

Recreation Committee

This committee will be chaired by Earvin Dyer and Pat Cholmondeley. The mandate of the Committee is to organize and execute events that will engage our members and friends in recreational activities. They have successfully planned and executed the Children's Christmas Party on December 7th, 2014. They will continue to plan activities for the Chaconia All Fours Club. Details of an upcoming game night can be found in the attached flyer.

We are always looking for participation on these committees, which will increase chances of success. You are more than welcome to volunteer and/or share your ideas so please contact us if any peaks your interest.



Proposed TTAO Activities for 2014-2015

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday December 07: Children's Christmas Party

APRIL 2015

Saturday April 11: Health Seminar – The TTAO will again be collaborating with other Ottawa organizations to launch this free information seminar. We hope to see you out. More details to follow.

Saturday April 18: Spring Fling – Still in the planning stage. Leave winter behind and dance your way into the warmth of Spring.

MAY 2015

Saturday May 30: Indian Arrival Day Dinner and Dance

JUNE 2015: Trinidad and Tobago Casino Night. Date to be confirmed

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JULY 2015:

Saturday July 25: TRINBAGO Day

Sunday July 26: Family Fun Day - Kites for Cancer

SEPTEMBER 2015

Saturday September 12: 53rd Independence Dinner and Dance

Dates and details for all activities will be finalized in the coming months.

Past Activities

Children's Christmas Party



Our first event for the year reflected the celebration of the holiday season and the gift of children in true Trini style.

On Sunday, December 7, 2014 throngs of children and their parents/grandparents attended the second annual Children's Christmas Party hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa (TTAO) at the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission (TTHC), 200 First Avenue, Ottawa.

Based on the attendance and smiles on the faces of the children, the event could be classified as an overwhelming success. The Acting High Commissioner, Mrs., Vanessa Ramhit-Ramroop and her husband Steve graced us with their presence and took the time to meet and greet members of the diaspora.

There were enjoyable games which thoroughly engaged the young ones. There was an abundance of great food for all thanks to generous donations from the TTHC and TTAO members and friends. Of course no Christmas party would be complete without an appearance by Santa who ensured that each little one left with a gift. Gift bags were also distributed courtesy the TTHC and the TTAO. At the end of the evening there was a tired, but happy bunch of children waving goodbye to Santa as they departed.

A very special thank you to Mrs. Vanessa Ramhit-Ramroop and her staff, D.J. Sunshine who volunteered his time and provided just the right music for the event and to the hard working members of the Children's Christmas Party Committee.

See you next year.....same time, same place!

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Did You Know.....?



The term Parang is derived from the Spanish word parranda, which means a spree or a fête. Initially it meant a group of four or more men who went to give a parranda at an event - a christening or a birthday celebration. The group sang to the accompaniment of musical instruments. However, in Trinidad, parang came to mean the songs that were sung especially during the Christmas season. What was brought from Venezuela to Trinidad was parranda navideña, which means Christmas parang.

There are two theories about the origins of Trinidad parang. The first is that the custom was brought to the island by the Spanish colonists who ruled Trinidad from 1498-1797. It continued to flourish after the British took over the island, because of constant interaction between the people of Trinidad and those of Venezuela (The Spanish Main).

The second theory suggests that the custom was brought over from Venezuela in the 19th century by the cocoa panyols who came from Oriente, East Venezuela to work on the cocoa plantations in Trinidad. Whatever its origins, parang is now an integral part of the cultural landscape of Trinidad and Tobago.

Incorporating aspects of indigenous and South American cultures, parang has been called a fusion of "the deep spiritual aspirations of the Spanish people and the unfettered joyfulness of the Amerindian and African cultures."



Parang has become synonymous with merrymaking at Christmas time. Groups of musicians called parranderos go from house to house entertaining members of the community. These visits involve singing and dancing as well as the sharing of food and drink. Today, this type of social paranging only takes place in a few areas in Trinidad. The main towns for parang are Arima, St. Anns, Santa Cruz, St.

Joseph, Caura, Mausica, Lopinot, San Raphael and Rio Claro. One must, of course, add Paramin to this list.

Parang has evolved in the course of time and new styles and influences (Soca, Calypso, East Indian instrumentation and melodies) have also been mixed in with Parang. The most popular is "Soca-Parang", which is the fusing of Soca with Parang thereby providing a vibrant tempo with lyrics sang mostly in English.

The official parang season runs from October to January 6th (The Day of

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the Kings or Dia de los Reyes). During this period, various parang groups take part in competitions organized by the National Parang Association of Trinidad and Tobago (NPATT) culminating in Lewah (Les Rois), the feast of the Kings.

Trini Christmas is de bess.....

We all know that Christmas is a favourite time of year for many Trinbagonians and involves celebrating and honouring the birth of Christ with loved ones and friends in a way that only we can.....i.e. plenty, plenty scrumptious food and drinks. Here are some links to a few recipes that will make you salivate just looking at the names!

Garlic Pork:



<http://www.simplytrinicooking.com/2010/12/trini-garlic-pork.html#.VHckZ9JOXAU>

Ponche de Crème:



<http://www.simplytrinicooking.com/2008/12/ponche-de-creme.html#.VHckntJOXAU>

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Cassava Pone:

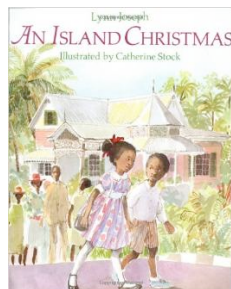


<http://caribbeanpot.com/cassava-pone/>

On the Bookshelf...Interesting Reads:

For Children:

An Island Christmas by Lynn Joseph



Rosie's preparations for Christmas on the island of Trinidad include picking red petals for the sorrel drink, and singing along with the parang band.

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For Adults:

Goodbye Frying Pan Hello Fire by Jennylynd James



This is a relocation story of a single mother and her teenage daughter to Toronto, Canada, a move that proves daunting and challenging. This memoir of discovery and determination takes us on an emotional roller coaster of triumphs and failures and shows their resolve to start a new life against the odds.

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 and Reggae (www.LIVE365.com)

Events of Interest:

Christmas Lights Across Canada

December 3, 2014 to January 7, 2015

In Canada's Capital Region, the winter landscape glows with hundreds of thousands of multi-coloured lights during the holiday season.

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Throughout Christmas Lights Across Canada, the lights in Ottawa-Gatineau glow each evening from 4:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Alight at Night

Upper Canada Village

Select days, December 5, 2014 to January 3, 2014

The heritage buildings are all lit up (over half a million lights). You can take a horse drawn wagon ride, ride the ferris wheel or take a toy train ride. For complete festival details including dates, times and pricing can be found at www.AlightatNight.ca or by calling the Customer Service Unit at 613-543-4328 or 800-437-2233.

Jaku Konbit : Kwanzaa 2014 " Family Traditions "

Saturday December 27, 2014

Kwanzaa is a week-long, non-religious, cultural celebration originated in the United States, but also celebrated here in Canada. The celebration honours African heritage and is observed from December 26 to January 1 culminating in a feast and gift-giving.

Celebration takes place at the Jim Robillard Union Centre , 1505 Carling Avenue from 4:00pm – 8:00pm. Dinner including dessert and refreshments will be on sale. Tickets \$15.00 (adults) \$10.00 (kids under 12). Plenty of free parking / Bus # 85.

For tickets and more Information please call 613-567-0600

In Memory of...



Norbert Boyce was an active member of the association who served on various committees during the 1980s and early 1990s. A well known Ottawa pianist, Norbert was a superlative interpreter of jazz standards and developed a distinctive playing style. He played the piano for many years at Zoe's Lounge, Chateau Laurier. Norbert was the beloved husband of Pat and loving father of Susan (Pierre) and Melissa. He will

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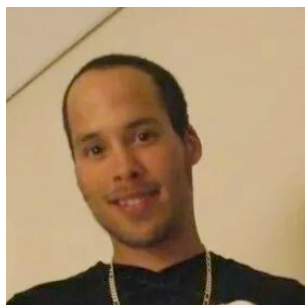
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be missed by many. The TTAO extends its heartfelt sympathy to his family.



Andrew Page had only recently become involved with the TTAO. In fact, at the 2014 TrinbaGo Day celebration, he showed up extremely early to assist the D.J. with the setup of his system, but ended up remaining for the duration of the event, offering assistance to anyone who needed it. Andrew`s sister Stacey is very much involved with the TTAO, most often providing entertainment for the children. His step-mother and father, Sandy and Derek Simmons, are long-standing members of our association.

We extend to the Simmons family our deepest condolences.

Member's Corner...

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.

The TTAO Membership form

The TTAO Membership Form has been updated and is now fillable online. You can complete the form online and email it to our mailbox at tandtassociation@gmail.com. You will then be contacted to make arrangements for payment of your membership fee. We hope that our members will make use of this great new feature.

Just a reminder, the annual membership for the association runs from **September 1 to August 31. Your membership for 2014-2015 is now due.** Please think about renewing your membership if you have not already done so.

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The TTAO website

The TTAO website has undergone a "facelift" so take a peek and don't be shy to send your feedback to tandtassociation@gmail.com.

The TTAO Facebook page

Please encourage your friends and family to like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Association-of-Ottawa-TTAO/157550578878>. On an almost daily basis, we post news and stories of interest pertaining to Trinidad and Tobago and the community in which we live. Your feedback and comments are always appreciated.

Is this a job for you?

The association has a Twitter account and is seeking a volunteer from the general membership to maintain it, with full support from the Public Relations, Communication and Membership Committee. If you are interested, please contact us for further details by sending an email to tandtassociation@gmail.com

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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

Chaconia All Fours Club

invites you to

a Family Games Evening



Monday December 29, 2014
From 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa
(the Lower Hall)



Refreshments & music will be provided

Cost - \$10 per person
(Children 14 and under are free)

Mandatory R.V.S.P. to
613-723-0785 or 613-729-2123

Come out and enjoy a fun night of card & board games for the entire family!!