



Bishops' High School Old Students' Association

Senior Class Notes

Vol. 8 No. 1 APR. 2014

Outing to Splashmins Fun Park Resort

By Elaine Williams

On March 29, 2014, 29 "old" and not too old students, 7 committee members and their guests ventured out on an amazing trip to Splashmins which is located on the Linden-Soesdyke Highway. They were taken from the Bishops' High School in three coaches whose courteous drivers ensured that oldies and/or gospel music filled the air.

Arriving at Splashmins, the troop streamed off the coaches and ventured out in different directions. Some headed up the stairs to the auditorium. Others settled themselves under the many benabs. Yet others decided to explore the area, walking along the white sand beach which borders the lake, maybe wishing that they could have a dip in the lake or sail in the available boats. Indeed, two brave souls did eventually have a swim.

As I settled down, I looked around and wondered who were the very old and who were the not so old. I couldn't really tell judging from the outfits. I realized that our age did not stop us from wearing what we wanted, whether shorts, 3/4 pants, long skirts, long pants, dresses, tops with sleeves or those with none. We were all there to have a good time.

This outing gave us the opportunity to catch up with each other. There we were chit chatting, laughing and moving from group to group, sharing out goodies. Of course, some of us made sure that there were snacks to nibble before being called to order for lunch.

The Splashmins catering team did us proud. The menu of fried rice, baked chicken, fried fish and green salad hit the spot. This delicious meal was accompanied by a choice of red or white wine (now a custom) and home made ice-cream. There was more to come!

The ladies who celebrated their birthday during the first quarter of 2014 - Megan Anderson, Elaine Murray and Magda Pollard - were invited to stick a huge birthday cake. We sang "Happy Birthday" then enjoyed the delicious cake.

We were allowed to visit one of the homes in the development "Madewini Villas," a gated community adjacent to Splashmins. What a peaceful place for those who want to spend their retirement away from the crowds and yet get to Georgetown in 45 minutes and to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport TImehri in 15 minutes.

O Beautiful Guyana!



CHILDRENS' PERSPECTIVES

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHOM TO MARRY?

- You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. (Alan, age 10)
- No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. (Kristen, age 10)

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

- You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. (Derrick, age 8)

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

- Both don't want any more kids. (Lori, age 8)

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

- Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. (Lynnette, age 8)
- On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. (Martin, age 10)

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

- When they're rich. (Pam, age 7)
- The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. (Curt, age 7)
- The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. (Howard, age 8)

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

- It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. (Anita, age 9)

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

- There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? (Kelvin, age 8)

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

- Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. (Ricky, age 10)

Getting Older

As I was lying around, pondering the problems of the world, I realized that at my age I don't really give a hoot anymore.

.. If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.

.. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, but is still fat.

.. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years, while

.. A tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years.

And you tell me to exercise?? I don't think so.

Just grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to remember the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Making Choices

F-E-A-R: has two meanings:

1. Forget Everything And Run
or
2. Face Everything And Rise



The Choice is Yours!

Never blame anyone in your Life.
Good people give you Happiness.
Bad people give you Experience.
Worst people give you a Lesson
& Best people give you memories.

*Books...A nice change from
reading prescription labels.*



Meet the Seniors

Marguerite Elaine Murray

Marguerite Elaine Murray was born on February 19, 1929. She attended Smith Congregational and St. Stephen's Scots primary schools before attending the Bishops' High School from 1943 to 1947. A member of Mary House, Elaine enjoyed playing netball with her classmates.

Among her close classmates were Winifred Beryl Johnson, Norma Campbell and Dora Butler. She was also friendly with younger students such as Joan Alert and Christobel Deane since their parents were friends. Elaine enjoyed music classes which were mainly taught by Mrs. Aileen Allen, the Headmistress. She remembers that Mrs. Taitt also came to the school to assist with the teaching of music.

Elaine obtained the Oxford & Cambridge School Certificate in 1947.

After leaving school, Elaine joined the Rangers and loved the camaraderie and experience. She also enjoyed the camps which were held at Leguan and Bartica. Wanting to maintain ties with the BHS family, Elaine joined the "Old Girls' Guild". Since she was a lover of classical music, Elaine and other alumni, such as Elise Arno and Magda Pollard, established the Woodside Choir. Initially, the Woodside Choir consisted only of BHS alumni. She also played lawn tennis and participated in Keep Fit Classes at the YWCA.

Elaine entered the Public Service in 1949. She served in various Ministries and Departments, including BHS where she was appointed Senior Clerk. Her longest tenure was in the Public Service Ministry (1968-84) where she rose to the position of Senior Management Services Officer in 1978. After her retirement, Elaine was contracted for short periods at GUYSTAC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Elaine was given several opportunities to sharpen her knowledge and skills while at the Public Service Ministry. In 1974, she received a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) award to attend Algonquin College in Ottawa to pursue a course in Management Studies: Systems and Techniques; she also did a course in Records Management at the Public Archives of Canada. In 1977, she received another CIDA award, this time on attachment, to hone her knowledge and skills in Management Consulting.

Retirement also enabled Elaine to explore other avenues. She became a volunteer at the YWCA, engaging in fund raising activities, establishing the craft and "New to You" shop and organizing children's day camps which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Elaine has carried on the family tradition of gardening. She was actively involved in the Georgetown Gardeners' Club. She later joined the Horticultural Society of which she is a Life Member. Her love of gardening continues today with Elaine often tending her plants during the early morning and late afternoon, almost on a daily basis.

Not a person to sit around, Elaine is very involved in her church. She is a member of the Dorcas Society and a Founder Member of the St. George's Cathedral Advisory and Welfare Council. She also established a library at the Cathedral; unfortunately, the library no longer functions.

This lover of travel has visited most of the English-speaking Caribbean countries. She timed her visits to Great Britain to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show in England and the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland.

Elaine said that "my hands were never idle. All my life, I had 'profitable' hobbies". Her love of craft began at age 4 years. Elaine observed her mother while she taught adolescents at St. Barnabas. At that time, she was given fabric, thread and a needle. She learnt many embroidery stitches and produced embroidered swatches which could be framed and mounted. She acquired skills in areas such as crochet, embroidery, fabric painting and floral arrangements. She also loved to bake and ice cakes, doing so for many birthdays and weddings.

Elaine has been a member of the Guyana Music Festival Committee from 2009.

Her relatives who attended BHS are nephew, Peter Murray and nieces, Carol Myers née Murray and Karen Mc Dermott née Murray.



Sylvia Phillips née Hunte

Sylvia Phillips née Hunte attended the Bishops' High School from 1941 to 1947. A member of Mary House, she served as prefect and house captain while in the Upper Sixth. She fully enjoyed the fun and fellowship, order and keen competition that was school life in the 1940s. Her earliest challenge still brings a chuckle - the daily cycle race from home to school to beat the bell at 7:55 a.m., the dash to the cloak room, then to the classroom before the arrival of the form mistress, in order to avoid the dreaded order mark for lateness!

Other lasting impressions were the ordered and orderly daily school assembly for morning prayers, and the special hymn practice sessions afterwards on Mondays, to ensure the clarity, diction and delivery of the scheduled hymns for the week - all this under the stern and watchful eye of Mrs. Allen, the imposing Headmistress. Striking first memories also include the games afternoons and the delightfully energetic P.E. sessions under Ms. 'Drill' King. Later on, of course, Sylvia played a valuable defence in netball for Mary House. As a ranger, she engaged in a number of hikes and outdoor activities, the highlight being the trip to Kaieteur, and camping at Tukeit at the foot of the falls. This was indeed the most awe-inspiring event of them all.

Some of Sylvia's notable early classmates included the Baird sisters, Lucille and Mona, Olivia Farley, Rosalind Phillips, Sita Narayan and Lyla Sankar (now Kisson of Business Fame). Sylvia herself teamed up with her inseparables Fay Richmond, Thelma Fernandes, Euranie Hope and Ruby Butscher (from the USA). Other comrades from other classes were the King sisters Cecily, Marjorie and Irma, Vi (Viola) Harper, Sheila Bacchus and Velma Rhodius, also Joyce Trotman (Cousin Trotz), noted for her ear for dialect. The staff at this time was mainly European but the peak event of the middle years was the arrival on the staff of Ms. Lilian Dewar, former Guyana Scholar and product of BHS. Her slight stature and quiet manner, keen intellect and ready wit captivated all, as much as her command of the English language. Here, indeed, was hero worshipping - par excellence - which continued long after Sylvia's time at school. In passing, one cannot fail to mention the care and devotion meted out to the girls by the long standing maids, Annie, Dora and Euranie or by the grounds men, Joe and Singh, all of whom went beyond the call of duty and were part of the family of BHS in the 1940s.



Sylvia loved Mathematics and dedicated her life to sharing that love of the subject with others. On leaving BHS, she joined the Primary School service, first employed briefly at Bedford Methodist School, then at Nismes Methodist School until 1951, gaining the Certified Teachers Certificate during this period. In 1952, she returned to her alma mater as Mathematics mistress. Then in 1956, anxious to hone her knowledge and skills, Sylvia accepted a Government scholarship in Mathematics to UCWI, Mona.

Mona provided an excellent opportunity for diversification of interests. In 1957, in the role of student from the West Indies, Sylvia participated in a guided international student tour of Eastern USA and Canada. Then in 1959, on the invitation of Anthony Phillips, her future husband, she became involved in the WUSC Seminar relating to the newly established West Indies Federation. In 1961 she completed the B.Sc. Special degree in Mathematics of London/UCWI and returned to BHS to serve as Graduate Mistress and Head of the Mathematics department until 1966.

In April 1965, Sylvia married Anthony Phillips then employed as Lecturer in History at UWI, Cave Hill. She moved to Barbados in January 1967, where she continued to share her knowledge and love of Mathematics. She was appointed senior Mathematics teacher at Harrison College (1967-68, 70-72), tutor and Head of Mathematics at Barbados Community College (1973-88) and finally Mathematics Lecturer at UWI, Cave Hill in the Faculty of Natural Sciences (1989-99) and in Social Sciences until 2004. Always open to improving her own educational experience, Sylvia participated in the Graduate Student Programme entitled 'The Teaching of Mathematics' at the University of Connecticut (Summer 1972) on an award offered by the Organization of American States and, in 1973, completed the M.Ed. Mathematics Degree at the University of Massachusetts.

Sylvia's contribution as a Mathematician has meant much to a large number of students both in Guyana and Barbados, many of whom hold top positions in their respective fields of Science and Engineering, Medicine and Education, to name a few. One way in which this has been recognized was by her receiving the Barbados Ministry of Education Service Excellence Plaque in the 1980s.



A faithful Methodist, she has always been, and still is, an active member of civil society. She is associated with her husband in many of his historical ventures in Barbados and overseas. Other memberships now include The Barbados Association of Retired Persons and the Barbados National Trust whose contribution to heritage includes Open Houses of historic significance.

In retirement, she is still engaged in sharing and travelling, spending long periods in London assisting her sister Mollie, a retired educational psychologist, and in Maryland and Barbados visiting her daughters' families, much to the delight of her three young grandsons.

Also attending BHS was Sylvia's cousin, Joy Angela Chung.

