



# Bishops' High School Old Students' Association

Senior Class Notes

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## Senior Class Meets Current Students

By Marlene Crawford

On Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at 10 a.m., members of the Senior Class and the Seniors' Committee met to interact with the students of BHS in the Oswald Parry Hall. The Committee members were assisted by male students in mounting the photographs and displaying the items provided by alumnae. Since the students had finished their exams, all students present filed into the Hall, totting their chairs in an orderly manner.

The H.M., Ms. Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott, welcomed all to the session. Magda Pollard, Agnes Jones, Phyllis Thompson and Megan Bender reminisced about the time they had spent at Bishops', pointing out some of the things that were different then from now. One person mentioned the fact that students had to be out of uniform by a certain time of day. Another said that she could not be considered a good student but her sisters were; she encouraged students to be diligent in what they did regardless of their level of academic achievement if they wanted to succeed in life.

One student modeled the school uniform worn in the 1940s, while another wore the games uniform of white square necked top and green shorts; the white yachtings worn by Mavis Pollard at the California Reunion were on display.

The students then sang beautifully "Thank You Lord" to the tune of "Edelweiss" and the last verse of the School Hymn as a show of appreciation. They were invited to view the various memorabilia displayed on tables at the side of the Hall and photographs of schoolmates of members of the Senior Class.

The students showed much interest in the items on display. They were particularly taken by the enamel prefect badge which bore the House colour, the neat books and the games uniform, especially the yachtings. They thumbed through the journals, the Songs of Praise and programmes of Reunions and asked questions about the photographs and other items on display.

The seniors were happy to answer the students' questions and to engage them in discussion generally.

See [bhsosa.org.gy](http://bhsosa.org.gy) for more photographs.



Agnes Jones at 14



Lilian Dewar



## Passages in Life

Reflection on school days often brings back pleasant memories of a time that was carefree yet guided by rules and regulations at home and at school. At that time, we thought little about what life held for us, since 30 years of age seemed ancient. Yet as the years pass, many transitions take place, some foreseen and others unimagined.

The past year has brought changes for many, changes in career, recognition of milestones and transition to the next stage of being. No one has won the lottery that we've heard about but some have had good fortune of one kind or another. Others have faced challenges with varying outcomes.

Two alumnae have embraced their religion at a higher level, Maureen Byrne-Massiah and Thelma Lawrence-Pyne. Some have grappled with health challenges and are able to share their experience, e.g., members of the Senior Class Margarita Gordon-Harewood, Phyllis Tait-Thompson and Jeane Pearson-Skeete. One member of the Senior Class was called to higher service, Mavis Pollard. Another senior alumna is revelling in the achievement of a big "50"; Gwen Stephenson-Mitchell has marked 50 years since completion of her undergraduate degree as well as 30 years since completion of her PhD.

And time marches on!

## Let's Celebrate

Aug 16 Florizel Matthews  
Aug 18 Elsa Charles  
Aug 24 Joy O'Jon  
Aug 28 Leila Too Kong  
Sep 9 Joyce Joao  
Oct 1 Agnes Jones  
Oct 10 Audrey Odle  
Oct 12 Margarita Harewood



Oct 15 Ethyl Wilson  
Oct 17 Marlene Crawford  
Oct 19 Yvonne Benn  
Oct 21 Urma Fordyce  
Oct 26 Lucille Cholmondeley  
Oct 29 Holly Morgan  
Oct 30 Eileen Robinson

## Upcoming Events

■ **Reunion 2008** is on our doorstep. Approximately 50 persons are on their way to Toronto from Guyana to enjoy the festivities. All are looking forward to reconnecting with friends, relatives and former teachers, as well as taking in some of the sights the city has to offer.

Class and year reunions are planned, in addition to the official programme which includes a welcome reception, business meeting, gala evening at which some will dust off their dance steps, no doubt, and the tried and true Commemoration Service.

The Guyana contingent will showcase talents of many young and not-so-young alumni during the cultural extravaganza. Some have stepped into a new realm and will certainly be in their element while on stage.

Look out for the post-Reunion session when photos will be displayed, memories will be shared and the spirit of "true comrade and true friend" will be in evidence.

■ **Carifesta 2008** marks the first time that the festival will be held in Guyana since its inauguration here in 1972. It will be staged from August 22 to 31, with a grand opening at the National Stadium.

The programme is varied. Patrons will be exposed to cultural presentations, the cuisine of various Caribbean territories and a symposium at which panellists, including Derek Walcott, Ken Ramchand, Rex Nettleford and George Lamming, will trace the development of our culture over the years. Activities will take place throughout Guyana, giving residents and visitors alike the opportunity to witness and experience the cultural diversity of the region.

Performers are expected from sister Caribbean countries as well as further afield; for example, Botswana will be represented by a troupe of traditional dancers. Austria will be supporting the festival by lighting up a building in the city.

The residents of Festival City, the site of accommodation for visiting teams in 1972, are planning to recapture some of the historical value of their community. They propose identifying some of the houses in which performers from different countries stayed in 1972, improving the physical environment and arranging cultural and educational activities.

