



Culture Day at BHS **By Wendel Roberts Solomon**

The Golden Jubilee Culture Day at the Bishops' High School was full of surprises for me since I was attending Culture Day for the first time. While approaching Carmichael and Church Streets, Senior Alumna Thelma Holder and I noticed young men with drums proceeding west into Church Street from Carmichael Street. When we arrived at the school, we learnt that a Parade would soon start. The Headmistress, Board Chair and others took up their position across from the school on Carmichael Street for the March Past. I witnessed the Parade as it entered the compound through the northern gate and as the contingent assembled outside of the lobby.

The Flag Raising Ceremony then followed on the northern lawn. At that time, I was accompanied by Thelma Holder and two parents of alumnae – Lucille Cadogan, mother of Rosemarie Cadogan, and Winslow Davidson, father of Monique Davidson-Tucker and Sondra Davidson-Lowe.

There were various stalls and booths set up in the compound. BHSOSA's shared information on needs of BHS and sought donations from alumni. Students were moving about in a variety of ethnic garb which was very colourful and refreshing. Some outfits were back-in-time and the wearers carried them with the required grace.

The next activity was the cultural show in the Oswald Parry Hall, for which we had to pay a small fee (another surprise). Again, it was a joy to see more students in these visually appealing outfits. The steel band players had a variety of outfits. I was particularly impressed with the lady in her black and white striped skirt, thin, long-sleeved, tunic-necked blouse and appropriate underwear (camisole), and her hat. She played the part well. The cultural show began with prayers and a brief speech by Ms. Ruth Lee, Chair of the Board. Very entertaining items followed by the steelband and guest artistes including the Yoruba Singers, celebrated Lisa Punch, Gavin Mendonca, Calvin Burnett and others. The young audience and many alumni had a rocking time. Kelly Hyles, a Guyanese student who lives in the USA, also graced the occasion and made brief remarks. She made us all very proud of her acceptance to eight Ivy League Schools and 13 others!! Some creole snacks were served during the programme.

Culture Day was a mini-BHSOSA Reunion as several overseas alumni who were home for the Jubilee celebrations, seized the opportunity to visit their alma mater and join in the festivities.

The foursome then had sumptuous tea at the beautifully laid out Tea Shoppe in the lobby. For Thelma and I, this brought the curtains down on a well spent half-day!!



A Touch of Reality

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied. 'Two years older than me.'

'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented.

She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: 'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked. She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

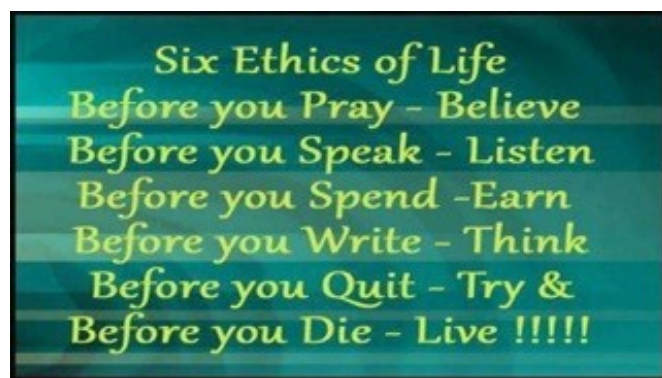
The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs and have fun finding them.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

THE SENILITY PRAYER

Grant me the senility to forget the people
I never liked anyway,
the good fortune to run into the ones I do,
and the eyesight to tell the difference.



How Children Perceive their Grandparents

- ◆ My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 80. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"
- ◆ A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."
- ◆ My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.
- ◆ When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised. "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."
- ◆ A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."



Meet the Seniors

Megan May Yvonne Malvina Richmond

Megan Richmond was born in 1932 to Malvina Straker Richmond and Daniel Johannes Richmond. She attended Queenstown Moravian School and Broad Street Government (later Dolphin Government) School. She entered the Bishops' High School (BHS) in 1943.

Megan describes herself as a quiet, unassuming person. She is like a closed flower that blooms periodically in the limelight. A few such moments from schooldays are as follows: a Middle School scholarship; games colours; an Art prize for a van Gogh landscape in Fifth Form and her Prefect's badge. Among her friends at BHS were Shirley Fernandes Jackman, Nella Dorsett-Sutherland, Florizel Matthews and Megan Anderson.

She showed signs of being an outstanding defence on the netball court for Elizabeth House until a mishap under THE TAMARIND TREE. A heavy shower had rendered the earth slippery and, losing her balance, she fell while trying to pick up some delicious fruit. A fractured clavicle ended her athletic dream.

Like so many adolescents, Megan allowed her imagination to take root. On one occasion, while she was drawing a likeness of Lucille Campbell during class time, her subject caught her in the act. Megan was put in detention in the staff room and was lectured by Ms. Campbell on the value of time, in the presence of her older sister Fay who was in Form V. It was the intention that Fay would report the incident to their parents. Megan felt that the approach to dealing with the matter was because her father had taught Lucille when she was young. While she was being scolded, some students kept walking past the staffroom to get a ringside view of what was taking place.

It was in Fourth Form that Megan's literary talent surfaced. Ms. Margaret Lee had expressed appreciation of an essay on Music in which Megan described Snake Charmers in India. Ms. Lee's comments boosted her self-confidence, triggering her love affair with Language, Literature and writing.

Megan became a trained Class 1 Grade 1 Primary school teacher after graduating from the Government Teachers' Training College. Her first teaching appointments were at Graham's Moravian and Broad Street Government Schools.

A few years later, she was awarded a 1-year Government of Guyana scholarship tenable at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus and leading to the Professional Certificate of Education.

After teaching for a few years, Megan left Guyana for Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This time, she had accepted a scholarship to read for a Bachelor of Arts degree at Moravian College. If the truth be known, the latter was a blessing that fell from her Dad's head on to her shoulders. She graduated with a BA (Hons.) in English. Of note were her long paper on the writings of Thomas Sterns Eliot and an original essay on Shakespeare's humour in one of his comedies.

To crown it all, she was elected a member of Lambda Iota Tau, an American international honour society for literature. She was recently invited to return to Moravian College to sign her English Honours paper as part of the celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the society.

Megan next received the MA in English from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

She has co-authored several publications viz., the original Timehri readers; Easy Path Series Language Textbooks for Primary Schools Books I to IV; material for the Guyana Basic Education Teacher Training Project workshops held in the Hinterland; and material for a Distance Education Programme at the Cyril Potter College of Education.



Megan received two awards from the Caribbean Examinations Council, one for serving 10 years as a marker and the other for serving 20 years as a marker.

She has always loved reading and music. Her love of music began at an early age, with a fascination with the piano surfacing around eight years of age. Megan has served as the organist at Queenstown Moravian Church for a number of years.

Three of Megan's relatives also attended BHS. These are her sister, Fay Beoku-Betts née Richmond, and nieces, Jacqueline Richmond and Kay Crookendale née Richmond.



Joy Marlene Pilgrim née Harewood

Joy was born to Eileen (née Robinson) and Hilton Harewood in 1936 at 310 East Street, Georgetown. Joy's mother died when she was two and a half years old. After her father's remarriage, Joy and her brother, Denys, were taken to Barbados to live with her paternal grandmother and her father's youngest sister. She began her primary education at Ursuline Convent in Barbados. As the Second World War was coming to an end, Joy and her brother returned to Guyana since her father thought that his two children were potential Guyana Scholars.

In 1944, Joy entered the Bishops' High School Preparatory Class. There her teachers included Cecily Pilgrim Robinson, Sybil Kranenburg Douglas and Lucille Campbell. Joy was accustomed to being top of her class. Little did she know what was in store for her when she moved into the high school. The youngest in her class, Joy had to compete with girls who had attended public school. Although she had received the Junior School Scholarship, she received the shock of her life when these students out-performed her. Her father thought that the worst thing to appear on her report was "Joy has the ability to do better"; that comment has plagued many students across the years. Joy embraced both curricular and extra-curricular pursuits. She did a variety of activities including Girl Guides, netball, cooking and sewing, piano lessons with Mrs. Edna Jordan and ballet dancing with Ivy Campbell, all which helped to hone her organizational skills. One morning when no one else was available, Joy accompanied the assembly on the piano. She was also a Prefect.

Joy shared some vignettes. She remembers the times she and other students stoned the mango tree, hiding the mangos in their knickers. One day while in the Sixth Form classroom, Joy used a stick to knock down some mangos. She was fairly caught by the Headmistress, Mrs. Allen who admonished, "Vulgar, vulgar, very vulgar". She also recalls that one teacher wore a false bun. Her classmates cast lots to see who could flick the bun off. Sure enough, off came that bun! On another occasion, Meigan Cromwell took a mechanical mouse to school and let it loose in the class. Imagine the commotion!

During the August holidays, students returned their textbooks before receiving those for the next year. They were given the opportunity to learn book binding. They also cleaned the classrooms and scrubbed the desks the week before school started.

Joy's classmates included Meigan Cromwell Chan, Dawn Elvis, Elsa Harper, Holly Morgan, Shirley Tang, Jean Thomas Small, Belle Thorne Tyndall, Paula Matthews Hazlewood, Hazel Campayne, Joy O'Jon, Ayesha Sankar, Lilawatee Persaud and Thelma Lawrence Pyne. Many of her classmates continue to meet on a biennial basis, in the true spirit of the School Hymn. Joy had a special affinity with some of her seniors such as Viola Harper Burnham, Sheila Bacchus Lampart, Olive Cromwell, Sylvia Hunte Phillips and Magda Pollard.

Joy spent one year in Sixth Form until her father was encouraged by her stepmother to take her out of school. With her derailment from this path, Joy attended Blackman's Secretarial School and was determined to be the best secretary ever. Classes began at 3.00 pm. Not wanting his daughter to be idle prior to classes, Joy's father suggested that she should find something else to do. Acting against the sensibilities of her family, Joy attended Carnegie School of Home Economics where she acquired skills in a variety of areas which she mastered. Of interest is the fact that fees were \$4.00 per term.

In 1954, Cecelia Francis invited Joy to teach English to Third Formers at BHS. Joy refused this offer but accepted one for the position of Secretary to Adolph Thompson, Resident Tutor at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Extra-Mural Centre even though she was still attending Carnegie. She had little time to settle in to her job before Mr. Thompson travelled out of the country four days after she assumed duty. At 18½ years of age, Joy had to take responsibility for arranging UWI entrance exams and interviews as well as meeting visiting teams from UWI at the airport and arranging public lectures by UWI Staff. Fortunately, she received guidance from persons such as Mae Cholmondeley and Cecilia Francis.

When Guyana withdrew its support, since persons still attended UWI to pursue Public Administration and Social Work, Joy served as the Liaison. Afterwards, she later worked as an Administrative Assistant with the Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry.

Joy was Secretary of the BHS Old Girls' Association when it celebrated its 25th anniversary. The highlight of the celebration was a very elegant dinner, with handwritten menus, held in the Oswald Parry Hall. The President at the time was Ella Barrow.

Joy got married to Cecil Pilgrim in December 1956, one month before her 21st birthday. Joy and Cecil were divorced in 1972, Joy became a single parent of their 12-year old daughter, Karen, and remained in Jamaica where she has lived and worked since then.

In 1969, Joy moved to Jamaica where her husband, Cecil, was appointed a Deputy High Commissioner. For the first three months, Joy functioned as a diplomatic wife with her first task being the cutting of a ribbon at a prison. Fortunately, Philip Sherlock whom she had met while working at the UWI Extra-Mural Centre recom-



mended that should work at UWI. That was the beginning of an exciting journey, one which saw her completing a Certificate in Management Studies in 1978 and BA (Hons) in 1981 from UWI.

Joy first worked in the Registry-Bursary at UWI. Her willingness to walk the extra mile and never say “no” when asked to do anything extra led to rapid promotion. When the Registry and Bursary were separated, she was assigned to the Registry as Office Manager and Personal Assistant to the Registrar, Carl Jackman. There, she had the opportunity to oversee other sections once someone went on leave for more than three months. When the person responsible for the Examinations section, the most pressurized section, was transferred to another section of the Registry, the Registrar identified Joy as her successor; she did not speak to him for six months. She told her predecessor that she would have to call her every day as she knew very little about the Exams Section.

The work ethic she found caused Joy to become tough and very demanding while she reorganized the department and introduced procedures which could work. She had been greeted by staff putting documents behind filing cabinets and using other methods to refrain from delivering stellar service. When the Administrative Assistant’s position became vacant, no one wanted to work with her. After a long time, a young man took up the position. Joy told him that she would teach him everything so that if anything happened to her, he would be able to run the department better than she. He did get the chance and performed brilliantly.

In 1989, Joy looked forward to a vacation in England, the place where she felt she could enjoy a real holiday. Two days before her departure, she was asked to go to Nigeria to visit universities to examine the semester system. She requested that an academic member of staff accompany her. As a result, she and Don Robotham spent two weeks gathering useful information in Lagos, Ibadan and Ife.

In 1993, Joy planned to write manuals and document precedents regarding examination regulations while on sabbatical. The then Vice-Chancellor, Allister McIntyre, asked her to serve for a 3-month period as Secretary to the Chancellor’s Commission on Governance for the Restructuring of UWI. This required her to travel around the Caribbean, attending meetings all day and writing notes at night. The 3-month position lasted one year and marked the end of her sabbatical. Joy returned to the position of Senior Assistant Registrar at the same time serving as the Secretary to the Committee responsible for implementing the Commission’s recommendations. She was later appointed Deputy University Registrar reporting directly to the Vice-Chancellor and serving as Secretary of the newly established Boards for Graduate Studies, Undergraduate Studies and Non-campus Countries and Distance Education. The latter has since morphed into the UWI’s Open Campus.

In recognition of her sterling contribution to UWI, Joy received the Vice-Chancellor’s Special Award for Distinguished & Dedicated Service. In replying to the tributes paid to her on this occasion, Joy thanked Adolph Thompson for “throwing her into the deep end”, all the persons who had helped her along the way and her father for instilling in her the family motto, “‘Can’t’ is a word in a fool’s vocabulary; if something is worth doing, it is worth doing it well”. She adds, that she learnt early in life to “always turn adversity into opportunity”.

After retirement, she has provided and continues to provide consulting services to various institutions such as UWI, Mico University College, and now Caribbean Maritime Institute.

Joy’s relatives who attended BHS are Margarita Harewood née Gordon, Lucy Gordon, Beryl Harewood, Eileen Harewood and Eleanor Thomas née Harewood.

