

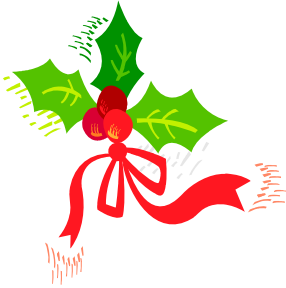


Library Lingo

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Reflections



"Remember that life's most treasured moments often come unannounced."

This has been a very exciting year in the Department of Library Services. It has been a progressive year which saw several new initiatives being implemented, all aimed at enhancing our product and the quality of service to our patrons.

Chief among the various initiatives was the acquisition of Alexandria, an integrated computerized system for the storage, retrieval and circulation of the Library's holdings. The project is ongoing but when completed, it would have catapulted the Anguilla Library Services into the 21st Century.

We have sought also to bolster our offerings to the children, and brought greater structure to our after-school programme. This included games, reading assistance, art and craft and a Friday afternoon movie sponsored by Video Dynesty. Additionally, the Saturday morning Story Time sessions continued, with a live broadcast on Radio Anguilla every other

Saturday from 10:30 am to 11:00 am.

Yet another initiative that has caught the attention of the public is the daily capsule "Book of the Week" on Radio Anguilla. This feature shares highlights of selected books with the listening audience. The reviews have been extremely positive and have generated much interest among the general public. Much commendation must go to Radio Anguilla for agreeing to partner with us in this venture.

Partnership continues to be a major tenet in our modus operandi at the Library. We have sought to revive the Friends of the Library, and some of our friends came forward and assisted us greatly with our Children's Library Annual Summer Programme (CLASP) which was once again an enjoyable experience. Thanks to all who have ensured the success of this venture.

Just recently we joined hands with University of

the West Indies, School of Continuing Studies, Anguilla which hosted a poetry reading at the Library featuring historian, writer and poet Sir Howard Fergus of Montserrat. This was a resounding success and participants are still talking about it and have expressed an interest in forming a writer's group.

The Library Department continues to play a significant role in the dissemination of information to our patrons, as well as to their general educational development. We take pride in our work, and are always looking for new and innovative ways to help. Won't you join us in this endeavour?

On behalf of the management and staff of the Department of Library Services, I wish everyone a very joyous Christmas and prosperity in the year ahead.

Alexandria..... would have catapulted Anguilla Library Services into the 21st Century.

Looking Back..... Serenading in Anguilla



For many generations of the past, serenading at Christmas time was a common tradition and a practice handed down from generation to generation in all Anguillian communities. The chief night for carol singing was on Christmas Eve but some groups began serenading several weeks before. This great and exciting aspect of Anguillian culture was greatly hailed by both entertainers and the entertained.

In the villages of Long Bay and West End the serenaders began practicing Christmas carols from the first week in November. The words of each carol were usually committed to memory. On Christmas Eve night, the serenaders made their way from one end of the village to the other, making sure that they serenaded each home. The group met and moved together and the serenade began at 10 p.m. When they were approaching the house the leader usually gave instructions to move as noiselessly as possible. At the door, the title of the first carol to be sung was whispered to everybody. The singing was accompanied by an accordion and later on the guitar. When we were all ready, the accordion gave the chord

and the singing began. According to Petty, it was the string band that provided music for the serenaders at East End during the 1940s and 1950s.

The hearts of those entertained were filled with Christmas cheer and joy which lasted throughout the season as they were awakened by the melodious strains of such songs as "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "O Come All Ye Faithful", and many others. At the end of the first carol, the leader usually extended Christmas greetings to the family. One such greeting went like this: *"Good night ladies and gents, We come for the compliments, We coulda been here before But we had somewhere else to go"*. Two or three more carols were sung ending with a farewell carol such as *"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"* and *"Goodbye - It's Time to Say Goodbye"*.

At the point where the serenaders were encouraging the householders to give their gifts they sang tunes like this: *"Give it if you have it, Give it with a willing mind, what the Lord gave to you, Be generous and true, Give it brother give it, Give it sister give it, Give it with a willing mind"*. Before the group left they were presented gifts such as potato pudding, coconut tarts, and special breads and cakes made from flour, guinea corn, maize and pigeon peas. Sometimes they received gifts of corned fish, and

straps of corn or guinea corn. There were also many kinds of drinks including the locally made 'Miss Blyden' made from the prickly pear fruit, sorrel, gooseberry punch and the famous guava berry from St Martin.

At the appearance of the morning star at about 4 a.m., a different carol was sung. This special carol *"Brothers Awake, Awake, Awake"* was very appropriate for Christmas morning.



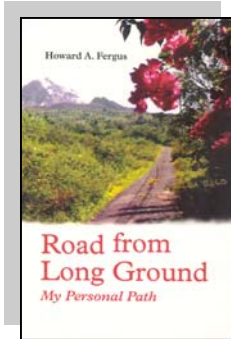
When the last home was serenaded, the Doxology was sung. Then the gifts which had been collected in special bags were distributed in picnic form after setting aside a portion to be given to the less fortunate homes in the village. After this the group dispersed. Some headed home while others made their way to Church for the Christmas morning service. This traditional custom played a specific role in the sharing of the Christmas spirit among all involved. A restoration of this once cherished tradition would be greatly appreciated by many.

Adapted from "Serenading at Christmas in Anguilla" by John Waddington Hodge, Anguilla Life Magazine Vol. IX No. 2 Winter 1996/1998.

1 Coffin, 2 Rainbow, 3 Telephone, 4 Coals, 5, It's Shadow, 6 Police, 7. When it has no point & Ton



Spreading the word.....



Born and raised in Long Ground Village, Montserrat '*behind God back*', Sir Howard Fergus rose to positions of prominence in academia at home and throughout the Caribbean. "*Road from Long Ground*" provides insights into the culture that moulded him. Sir Howard's personal story is, in a sense, personal to many Caribbean people who, with divine favour, have gone from grassroots to governance. This both heightens and broadens the appeal of the book, which reflects the unique style of Fergus, and showcases him as historian and poet and 'renaissance man'. Complete with black and white photographs Fergus' memoir is inspiring; a treasure to be appreciated and treasured.

Fishing for facts...



Do you think that Anguilla has a Creole language or dialect? If so should children be encouraged to express themselves using this dialect, either in written or spoken form?

Contact Us:
write, email or call us at.
Department of Library Services,
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Tel: 264-497-2441
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Email: axallibrary@gov.ai

What's Looking..... CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS PUDDING

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. raisins
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. currants
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. prunes (cut)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. mixed peel
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb flour
1 gill milk
1 teaspoon baking powder
 $\frac{1}{8}$ cup orange juice
1 teaspoon almond essence
2 ozs. Ground cashew nuts

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb sugar
6 ozs. cherries
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs white bread crumbs
2 gills brandy
6 eggs
6 ozs ground almonds
2 teaspoon vanilla essence
1 teaspoon each of nutmeg, cinnamon,
lemon rind, orange rind



Method: Mix in a large bowl, raisins, currants, prunes, mixed peel, cinnamon, nutmeg, lemon and orange peel and bread crumbs. Add flour, butter (do not cream) and sugar. Mix well again. Add colouring, brandy, orange juice and essence. Mix well and allow to stand covered overnight. Next day add milk, nuts and eggs beaten very lightly.

Pour mixture into pudding bowl(s) which have been well greased and lined with grease proof paper. Cover with grease proof paper and seal bowl tightly to prevent water from getting in. Tie each bowl with towel and place in pan of boiling water to steam for about 2-3 hours. Cover pan while pudding is being steamed, as this quickens cooking process. Keep replenishing water in pan, level should be kept up to $\frac{2}{3}$ of pudding bowl.

To test if pudding is done, remove from pan and insert knife into pudding, if done, knife will come out clean. When done remove top grease proof paper and allow to cool. Remove pudding from bowl, wipe bowl dry, wrap pudding in new grease proof paper and then foil, replace in bowl. Tie bowl with dry towel and put in cool place until required.



ENJOY

Tickle Your Mind....

Christmas

W S D N E I R F P U W F Y E K R U T
 X M F I V E F I N G E R T R E E F O
 Q F K I Q T M Y B L A C K C A K E D
 T G S E D A R E U Q S A M T Y I Z I
 X L V M M C A R O L S O P N U E S C
 G R Q P O T A T O P U D D I N G S X
 I S R E D A N E R E S A D N V T U J
 F S R I B B O N S M M A U B Y S F Q
 T S F J L E T Q P B U F T Q O A F E
 S X T E H B S Y O T W W P H U E M E
 S C Z R B A K I N G S K Z K B F O P
 T E L L E K T D E C O R A T I O N S
 Z C X I F C X Y U E R R H K M O R M
 V M V G I R N Y A D G N T A E L W I
 L H I H J X J O B Y E C F S S Y O F
 O R Q T J B M G C F A M I L Y G J A
 V C R S L W F K H H Y L L U F Y O J
 E P I A X W S K A B A M K O Z M N I

BAKING, BLACKCAKE, CAROLING, CONCERTS, DECORATIONS, FAMILY, FEAST, FIVEFINGER TREE, FRIENDS, GIFTS, JOYFUL, LIGHTS, LOVE, MASQUERADES, MAUBY, POTATO PUDDING, RIBBONS, SERENADERS, TOYS, TURKEY

Brain Teasers

The maker doesn't want it, the buyer doesn't use it, and the user doesn't see it. What is it?

• • •



What ends in "W" but has no end?

• • •

What demands an answer but asks no question?

• • •

What is black when you buy it, red when you use it and grey when you throw it away?

• • •

What is as big as an elephant, but does not weigh anything?

• • •

Who can hold up a school bus with only one hand?

• • •

When is a lesson like a broken pencil?

• • •

Forward I am heavy backwards I am not. What am I?

• • •

Answers on page 2

" Above all life should be Fun!

Take time to some fun in your life today."

Tongue Clapper Say.....

Gyul, ti mek mi heart full di odder day when ah hear dat dem was bringing back Christorama in East End. Dem call it Festival D' Noel now. Lawid ah remember Christorama when Brudda Lee and Colonial City Club usta try to keep dem ole time days alive. Ah could still remember Singing Jenny an' Susan. She had come Christorama Queen one year. Ah cyan remember much cause ah getting ole now, but dem was good times. Just di odder night ah went to di Miss Mature Show and Beth tek me right back to dem days when we usta go to di fete an' ting down at "Wash Yuh Foot And Come" You neva hear bout dat. You ain't know where da be. Ti right dere where Hideaway is now. All yuh had to do was wash yuh foot and come. Di fiddlers an' dem usta play dere fuh di season. Gyul dem was sweet days. Nuttin was sweet like dat string band music. Ah could still hear Feddy Carty pon he fife and Dummy Feddy pon di borhor. Di Happy Hits and Superfly Stringband cyan touch dem ole time string bands yuh know. But ah almost fuhget to tell aya bout di Christmas Calypso Show. Ti was a good idea an ah tink all di calypsonians had do a good job, but ah really tink I-Spy shoulda place. He song really tek yuh back to dem good ole days how Christmas usta be in Anguilla. Gyul ah could smell di tarts, di pudding an di corn bread in di rock oven. Mi mouth watering just tinkin bout it. Ah gotta go but ah wish aya all a merry, merry Christmas. But aya ain't hear dat ah get so big ah in di Light.