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Renowned Bahamian History and Culture Expert Speaks at Ambassador's Residence

Well-known Bahamian writer, educator, historian, entrepreneur and top Junkanoo are words frequently used to describe Arlene Nash-Ferguson, who lit up the Bahama Room in the Ambassador's Residence on Wednesday, September 5th. For the second year in a row, Arlene was the guest speaker on Bahamian Culture for the official Post Orientation Program, coordinated by the CLO, and attended by new Embassy employees and their spouses.

Mrs. Nash-Ferguson educated, entertained, and inspired us with her colorful stories of the origins of Bahamian dialect and customs, and the tradition of Junkanoo. She explained how Junkanoo originated as a celebration of freedom for slaves who were given three days off at Christmas time. Playing homemade musical instruments (drums and bells), donning masks and cavorting freely on the island, the Junkanoo began as a saving grace to slaves, with those three days providing a period of re-discovery, offering the spirit "an opportunity to live and breathe". Her book, "I Come to Get Me! An inside look at the Junkanoo Festival", is one of the few books written about the entire process and history of Junkanoo.

A teacher of thirty years, Mrs. Nash-Ferguson is also the Co-founder and Director of Educulture Bahamas which offers support services to schools, cultural and educational consultancies, and houses a Junkanoo Museum and Resource Center. Educulture provides an interactive approach to learning with a celebration of the culture of The Bahamas. Having participated in Junkanoo parades from the age of four, she has served on the National Junkanoo Committee for twenty-four years, and is the founding Secretary of the One Family Junkanoo and Community Organization.

Mrs. Nash-Ferguson is the co-host of the popular weekly radio talk show on Junkanoo on ZNS 1540 on Saturdays at 10:00am.



"Bloom where you are planted"



For more information about items on this page, please contact Jeanne Dennis at 322-1181 Ext. 4254 or DennisJA@state.gov



The American Women's Club in The Bahamas (AWC) has extended an invitation to the U.S. Embassy women to attend a Luncheon at the Poop Deck West (across from Sandypoint) on **September 11th at 11:00am**. The cost for the three course meal is \$25. This would be an excellent time to learn more about the AWC. They have many fun activities and it is a great way for newcomers to meet other American women living in Nassau. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to Christy Myrick at 326-8976 or christymyrick@yahoo.com by Friday, September 7th.



Snorkeling Trip at Stuart Cove's

A group snorkeling trip through Stuart Cove's has been organized for Saturday, Sept. 22nd, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. The price is: Adults - \$44.00; Children 11 and under - \$24.00 (this is with our 20% residential discount). They go to 3 different coral reef sites on the southwest side of the island. Snorkeling equipment is included. If you want to take a look at their website, it is: www.snorkelbahamas.com.

Please contact the CLO at DennisJA@state.gov or 322-1181 Ext.4254, if you want to join us, by Wednesday, September 19th.

Dolphin Encounters-Project B.E.A.C.H.

Bahamas Education Association for Cetacean Health (B.E.A.C.H.) is a non-profit association that provides unique marine educational opportunities to local school children and teachers. Dolphin Encounters-Project B.E.A.C.H. has developed innovative methods of reaching out to teachers and students in an effort to develop a greater appreciation of our beautiful environment and to bridge the gap in the lack of resources available to schools in the Bahamas.

September 15th has been designated as **International Coastal Clean-Up Day** where concerned citizens in over 120 countries, including the Bahamas, will be out on local coastal areas doing their part to protect the environment. As part of the mission, on **September 15th at 9:00am**, Project B..E.A.C.H. will be hosting a beach clean-up on Yamacraw Beach (Stokes Beach). It is hoped that members of the community will be out in full force to take an active role in caring for their marine environment.

In an attempt to broaden the clean-up effort, the US Embassy community has been asked to participate on that day to help increase awareness of the Bahamian environment and the importance of preserving and protecting it.

Participants are asked to bring gloves; along with a personal water bottle to reduce waste. Should you need transportation to and from the event, please confirm no later than Thursday, September 13th. Please contact the CLO at DennisJA@state.gov or 322-1181Ext.4254 by Friday, September 14th at 12:00 noon, if you plan to attend. T-shirts will be sold the day of the event.

**SIXTH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

On Tuesday, September 11, at 8:30 a.m., the U.S. Embassy will pay tribute to those killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in a ceremony to be held at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, Liberty Overlook. U.S. Chargé d' Affaires, a.i., Dr. D. Brent Hardt, will read the 9-11 Presidential Proclamation and dedicate an Official 9-11 Memorial. All U.S. Mission employees and their families are invited. Please RSVP to Katherine Gibson at GibsonK@state.gov or 322-1181 Ext.4251, by September 10th.



Junior Baseball Registration Deadline

The Junior Baseball League of Nassau, JBLN, has the 2008 season registration deadline on Sat. Sept 29. This year medical insurance is mandatory for all players at a minimal cost of \$35. The League's \$210 fee includes insurance. Download forms at www.jblnbaseball.com. For more information, contact Charles Kemp at charleskemp@coralwave.com

JBLN Baseball Practice on West Side

In an effort to have a JBLN baseball team that practices on the west side of the island, we are looking for 8 and 9 year old boys and girls interested in playing coach pitch baseball. Practice would be on Sunday afternoons and games would be played at St. Andrews on Saturday mornings. Practice would start in November and games would begin in January. For registration forms or more information, please contact Kevin Stanfill at 326-0689.

Bacardi Closing Nassau Distillery

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Bacardi Ltd. will close its rum distillery in the Bahamas and transfer manufacturing operations to facilities elsewhere in the Americas. The Nassau plant, which employs 114 people, will close by April 2009. Most of its operations will be absorbed by the company's main rum production site in Catano, Puerto Rico, near the capital of the U.S. Caribbean territory. The Bermuda-based company established a presence in the Bahamas in 1965 in part to avoid large duties on shipments from Puerto Rico to Europe, but it said changes in trade agreements and competition compelled them to consolidate. "The change in business conditions and economies of scale were significant factors in the decision to prepare to cease operations here in Nassau," said Felix Mateo, director of the closing Bahamas facility. "It is very difficult to make a decision like this, but it is the right decision for the company."

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sept. 8 - Children & Family Art Workshop
National Art Gallery of The Bahamas
10:00am

NAGB is holding a workshop to explore techniques and make objects in Papier Mache. For children 10yrs. +. Fees: \$10 members; \$12 non-members, includes materials. www.nagb.org.bs or 328-5800.



Sept. 6-8 - Beauty Festival 2007
John Bull

***Call 302-2800 to book your appointment today!**

Saturday, September 8, 2007 is a celebration of beauty at John Bull's La Parfumerie! Enjoy an all-day pampering event and celebration of beauty as we highlight our finest cosmetics and fragrance brands. Including complimentary makeovers, beauty workshops and advice, fragrance sampling and special offers and free gifts with purchases. Featuring international make-up artists and skin care consultants: Lancome - Alfred Vargas & Julieta The Rodriguez (Sept. 6-8)
Chanel - Daniel Silvera (Sept. 6-8)
Irman - Byron Barnes (Sept. 7-8)
Elizabeth Arden - Waldemar Torres (Sept. 7-8)

Sept. 15 - Dolphin Encounters - Project B.E.A.C.H.
Yamacraw Beach
9:00am

Project B..E.A.C.H. will be hosting a beach clean-up on Yamacraw Beach (Stokes Beach). In an attempt to broaden the clean-up effort, the US Embassy community has been asked to participate on that day to help increase awareness of the Bahamian environment and the importance of preserving and protecting it. Participants are asked to bring gloves; along with a personal water bottle to reduce waste. Should you need transportation to and from the event, please confirm no later than Thursday, September 13th. Please contact the CLO at DennisJA@state.gov or 322-1181 Ext.4254 by Friday, September 14th at 12:00 noon, if you plan to attend. T-shirts will be sold the day of the event.



Sept. 28-29 - Atlantis Live - Fall Entertainment Series

Friday at 10:00pm - Joss Stone in concert. Saturday - Chill with Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA 2007 at Cain At The Cove for a sunset cocktail party followed by a party at AURA with Dave Navarro. Weekend pass includes VIP ticket to concert, entry to Cain At The Cove evening party and weekend access to Aura or Dragons. Cost: \$175 for weekend pass. Concert only tickets can be purchased. Visit Atlantis.com or call 888-528-7155 for more details.



Sept. 29 - Jazz Under The Stars Festival
Rainforest Theatre

The July 15th event, having been postponed by weather, is being held indoors at the Rainforest Theatre, Wyndham Nassau Resort. Tickets for the original concerts will be honoured. Call COB at: 302-4304/53/54 or 66.

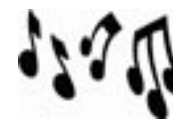


PHOTO GALLERY



The Embassy group at the Bacardi Factory tour on Labor Day.



The Big 4-0!



Send in your photos to be featured in the Photo Gallery!

Advertisements



Announcements

Play Group

A play group for infants-5yrs. will begin on Thursday, September 20th, 10:00am at Sandypoint Playground. If you are interested in coming or have questions, please contact Patty Foran at 327-1439 or Amy Smith at 327-3791. RSVP is needed for entrance at Security Gate.

Housekeepers

Two housekeepers who have worked for US Mission employees, and come with their recommendations, are currently available to take on additional work.

Please contact Jeanne Dennis at 322-1181 Ext.4254 or DennisJA@state.gov if you are interested, and she will provide their names and contact information.

Mission Family Book Group



We hope everyone enjoyed their summer vacations as much as we did. The book group is getting ready to settle in again for some great discussions with a new selection of books.

Jodi Kruse will host the discussion for our next book, "Marley & Me (Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog)", by John Grogan. "Marley & Me" is one of those stories that will make you laugh, cry and shake your head all at the same time. This is a story of a family in the making and the neurotic dog who taught them what matters in life.

If you would like to join the discussion, we will be meeting on Wednesday, October 3rd at 6:00pm. Please contact Jodi Kruse at JodKr2@aol.com or 327-0569 or Pat Wielkie at pkailani@flash.net or 394-4575.

If you have just arrived this summer and are interested in participating in a book group, just curious, or would like to share what you read over the summer think about joining us.

Happy Reading!

Commissary

Hours of Operation
Wednesday 10:00am-2:00pm
Friday 3:30pm-6:30pm

For comments or to suggest items for future commissary orders, please contact your board members at nassaucommissary@state.gov

Submission Guidelines

Submissions are to be made by email to Sue Minor at junkanoonews@yahoo.com or by phone at 327-1631. The Junkanoo Journal will be published on *Thursdays*, every other week and all submissions must be made by *COB on the Monday* before distribution. Some submissions may have to be reformatted due to program conversion. If you're sending a picture and know how to make it a smaller file, please do. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, or security. All content will be reviewed and approved by the Community Liaison Officer and RSO.