

AFA

ADULT EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION
OF GUYANA



40th Anniversary

COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE
1957 - 1997

**The Adult Education Association
Of Guyana**

40th
Anniversary
1957 - 1997

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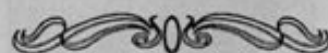
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Foreword

Dr. Dale A. Bisnauth

Minister of Education & Cultural Development

*T*his publication is most welcome for two reasons.

In the first place it is a commemorative issue which marks the Fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Adult Education Association of Guyana. That the Association has endured for four decades is a tribute to those who have served Adult Education so well over this time span. We offer to them our warmest thanks.

Then, the publication will highlight the peculiar contributions of the AEA to education in this country. Those contributions are worthy of chronicling. When the History of Education in Guyana is written, the work of the AEA will share a note-worthy place in that history.

I wish to commend this Magazine to the widest readership.



Message

Newton Louis Profitt, A.A

Executive Director

Adult Education Association of Guyana

*M*adam President, Executive Members, Members all. This year we have completed forty (40) years as a non-formal education institution for out-of-school Guyanese people. Indeed, it is quite evident that whether or not you have been associated with this institution for (40) years as I have been or forty (40) days there is good cause for celebration.

In the first place this institution is the first of its kind in the Caribbean. As a consequence it was the only organisation of the Caribbean to become a founder member of the International Council for Adult Education, a world body located in Canada that has advisory status in the United Nations. From the inception your present Executive Director represented the Adult Education Association on that august body for the duration of five years.

Further, the first Caribbean Conference of Adult Educators some years later sponsored by the United Nations, was held in Guyana with the Adult Education Association being host. Emanating from a resolution of that Conference, the Caribbean Regional Council for Adult Education came into being. Again the Adult Education Association became a founder-member of the Executive body of that Regional Organisation for some seven or eight consecutive years. Indeed the Adult Education Association of Guyana was regarded as the father of similar bodies in the Caribbean and was accordingly sought after for its experience and intelligence regarding the organisation and operation of such associations.

This prestigious position held by the Adult Education Association, even in the early days, is a cause for celebration.

Over the years, we have conducted activities in every single Region from Skeldon on the Corentyne, through the county of Demerara and the county of Essequibo, as far as Port Kaituma; we have gone into the hinterland at St. Ignatius in the Rupununi, among the Amerindians and have held classes in a large number of rural and riverain areas. For these reasons we need to celebrate.

But then our mission demands that we will fill the gaps left by the formal education and training institutions. This was never a problem while the institutions showed competence and reaped success. However within recent times and principally through a drastic change in the economy of this country, the formal system faltered and left enormous gaps to be filled by this organisation. So it is then, that the Adult Education Association is faced with the challenge of redoubling its efforts, using to the utmost its energy, its intellect, its assiduity, its resolve and the best of its available human resources. Fortunately there are many qualified good-natured men and women ready and willing to volunteer their services in this respect and so the challenge is less formidable than it might appear.

All in all we have experienced 40 fruitful years. We have been able to identify some of the challenges and changes that must be addressed. We now need the ability, the high sense of responsibility, dogged commitment and resoluteness to implement these changes. This may well necessitate the infusion of new personalities, new attitudes, new backgrounds, new verve, new experiences and new linkages.

There have been many who, for years, placed their abilities, energy and time voluntarily in the service of the Adult Education Association. We thank them sincerely and are proud of their association with us.

Let me thank also the Government which for 30 years of our 40-year existence rendered tremendous support financially and otherwise, without which support it is doubtful that this organisation would have been alive today. It was the Government that provided funding in 1971 for the employment of a whole-time officer to give strength and stability to the work of the Association and so pave the way for its development and longevity. Even at this time we have the personal assurance of the President of this Republic and the Senior Minister of Education, of Government's high appreciation of the Adult Education Association's contribution to the nation's development and of Government's intention, to the limits of its ability, to continue its active and tangible support to the Adult Education Association.

As we enter our forty-first year, we turn our face to the sun and let our shadow fall behind us. With accelerated pace, we progress along the road to excellence onward, upward and heavenward. Let's all then regard the Adult Education Association as a legacy to be treasured and preserved.

Gloria in Excelsis! Laus Deo! Thanks be to God!



Message

Adola Grandsoult

President

Adult Education Association (AEA)

It is a distinct honour for me to have been given the opportunity of delivering this message to you in my capacity as President of the Adult Education Association on its 40th Anniversary.

The Adult Education Association is now widely regarded as a place to which one can go to acquire new skills or to sharpen existing ones which may have become tarnished over the years. The Association's reputation for providing the tools of a trade for many of our fellow Guyanese, is almost legendary.

Consider our computer training programmes for example. I have been reliably informed that classes in this particular subject area are always full. A number of our young people, especially, have been benefitting from these classes and have been able to make themselves more marketable in the competitive world of work.

I am pleased to report that the Association is continuing its policy of entering students for the CXC and GCE examinations. In June 1997, seven distinct subject areas were considered. In addition, we have been offering courses in electronics, refrigeration servicing, industrial arts, personnel management, communication and information technology.

The Department responsible for the Women's Outreach Programme has organised and co-ordinated a number of activities which will culminate in a graduation ceremony for this year's Anniversary.

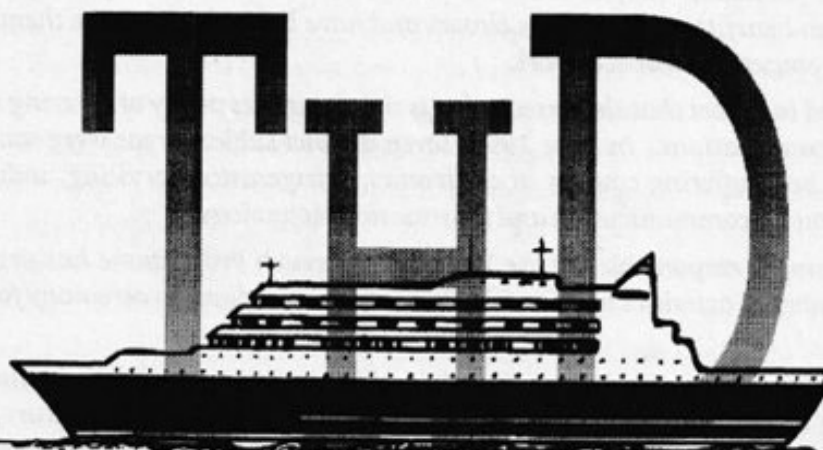
A number of courses are being offered in this programme and these include floral arrangement, cake decoration, pastry-making, knitting, dress-making, hair culture, tie-dyeing, batik, commercial art painting, tailoring, care for the elderly, child care management and food and nutrition. Courses are being conducted in Georgetown, Clonbrook, No.68 Village on the Corentyne, New Amsterdam and Santa Mission on the Demerara River.

It was an extremely proud moment for the Association when thirteen members of the Blind Institute displayed their work to signify the successful completion of an Elementary Food and Nutrition Course. The proud students are eagerly looking forward to participating in an advanced course in this discipline.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Guyana for its annual subvention, as well as the High Commission of Canada, SIMAP, UNESCO, UNICEF, Food for the Poor and other Agencies which, in one way or another, have supported the Association over the years. Their kind assistance proved invaluable in keeping the Adult Education Association alive, and promoting the programmes which so many of our fellow Guyanese embrace.

It has been a privilege for me to have served as President of the Adult Education Association for the past four years, and to have been a member of the Association for twenty (20) years. We have been moulding, and will continue to mould our fellow Guyanese in the hope that we will be contributing significantly to a more organised society. I sincerely hope that many more of our young people will grasp the opportunities which the Adult Education Association is offering to prepare them for the complex world of work

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Message

Carmen Jarvis

Secretary-General

Guyana National Commission for UNESCO

The Adult Education Association & UNESCO in Guyana

It was recognised from the very establishment of the National Commission for UNESCO in 1978 that the Adult Education Association (AEA) had an important role to play in the programmes and activities of UNESCO in Guyana. The AEA was the only existing Adult Education Institution in the country at that time.

With this recognition came the appointment of Mr. Newton Profitt, Executive Director of the Adult Education Association, as a member of the Guyana National Commission for UNESCO. Mr. Profitt has given unbroken service on the Commission since 1979, a period of 18 years, to date.

He has been a staunch supporter of the activities undertaken by the Commission and has always played a leading role in the observance of International Literacy Day on 8th September, each year. Indeed, he has been the moving spirit behind the annual week's events.

As I recall the collaboration between the UNESCO Commission and AEA, a few special projects come to mind. The first is a Report on Education and the Elderly prepared by AEA, then came a Seminar on the Aged and Ageing both in the 1980 - 1983 Triennium. These were important projects and their findings have proved very useful to the elderly.

Also in that period, AEA worked along with a UNESCO Consultant on Occupational Retraining of the Older Age Group.

In the following biennium, in July 1985 members of AEA, Mrs Myrtle Dundas and Mr Winston Lawrence participated in a CREFAL/CARCAE Workshop. CARCAE is the Caribbean Council of Adult Education. The Workshop was held in St. Kitts.

Then in 1991 a larger AEA Functional Literacy project was granted US\$20,000 by UNESCO. This Project entailed a new approach, bearing in mind the usual hesitation of the academically illiterate to attend literacy classes because of fear of hurt pride and embarrassment. There was also a need to have the illiterate perceive swift tangible benefits to relieve poverty and its ills.

The three-year UNESCO Project entailed radio talks, panel discussions, addresses to Parent-Teacher Associations, Youth and Service Clubs and Religious Organisations. Most important of all were seminars for tutors and practitioners on new techniques required for the

the implementation of the programme.

A vehicle, a Nissan Vanette was provided, and this gave new hope and enthusiasm to workers.

Activities began in and near the city and then extended to the more rural areas.

In the hinterland region, the techniques among the Amerindians involved teaching through everyday activities - like recipes for popular dishes and guidelines for personal health and hygiene. This method proved very effective as students were easily convinced of the need to be able to read and write for everyday living.

The co-operation and collaboration between UNESCO and AEA included the attendance of the Executive Director at Meetings of CARCAE, the Caribbean Council for Adult Education and other related fora and his receipt of Adult Education material from relevant Organisations.

The Annual involvement of AEA in the observance of International Literacy day is ongoing, and so is Mr Profitt's service on the National Commission for UNESCO.

The National Commission for UNESCO is grateful to Mr. Newton Profitt for his unswerving loyalty, support and valuable contribution to the work of the Commission.

It extends best wishes to Mr. Profitt and AEA for many more years of important service to Guyana.

Happy 40th Anniversary.

Historical Background

Organised Adult Education in Guyana which was spearheaded by the Adult Education Association of Guyana had a chequered beginning. While most Adult Education Associations in Third World countries had their early beginnings - alphabetization and the concept of arresting the illiteracy stigma, Adult Education in Guyana was initiated through the auspices of the Extra Mural Department, University College of the West Indies of that time, through its resident tutor, Mr. Adolph Thompson, and with some assistance from the British Council representative, Mr. John Gale. This took place in 1957, eight years after the Elsenore Conference in Denmark - the first UNESCO sponsored International Conference on Adult Education.



At that time the prevailing tendency was for Adult Education to concern itself exclusively with liberal situations, and so it was that the activities of the association mainly consisted of monthly formal lectures for the benefit of expanding the education of the elite of the Society.

By 1961 a broader concept of Adult Education had emerged. There was a gradual change in the function of the organisation from serving the personal interest of a relatively few people to the task of satisfying various needs and aspirations of the British Guianese adult on a larger scale.

Nationally, independence in 1966 brought with it new hopes and aspirations of a larger number of people and an awareness that Adult Education can and must play an important part in improving the well-being of the people.

Two challenging questions faced the small body of volunteers who had taken on the enormous task. The first was the umbrella task to embrace the many facets of Adult Education and to cope with the pressures of change, and thus the improvement of the quality of life of the community.

Second, with government assistance in the onerous task, by re-organising the work they were doing in bringing Adult Education within the official structure of non-formal national education, by providing finance for the many programmes and allowing the association access to schools' facilities.

The breakthrough was accomplished in 1971, when, after several meetings with Government, it was agreed to make the association responsible for the conduct of evening classes and with the provision of a supplement to the Budget, engaged a full time officer-in-charge of the day-to-day activities of the association.

Adult Education was thus assured a new era and recognition. It became the clearing-house for education materials including social, health, economic and other matters, in addition to problems affecting the life and living of adults. Its programmes had no theoretical boundaries and were geared to meet

particular needs of the individual, the community and the teachers. They were very flexible. They covered many aspects of national life, serving adults regardless of their level of education, race, social status, age, religious persuasion or political affinity.

In the 1960's and 1970's illiteracy was not a national problem. With compulsory elementary education established as early as 1876 and with the national upsurge of teacher training, Guyana's literacy rate reached the high level of over 80%. The majority of illiterates were from among the Amerindians who lived in the deep hinterland, and small numbers of indentured immigrants who never had any schooling, as well as a smaller number of early school leavers who, for one reason or another, relapsed into illiteracy.

Literacy programmes in the reading and writing of English were introduced for the most part among the Amerindians. After a brilliant start there was a falling-off of interest on the part of the Amerindians who felt that their culture, inclusive of their language, was being undermined rather than being matured or improved. This problem was partly solved with the help of two Missionaries from the USA, who did some research work, resulting in the compilation of a dictionary of the Wapishana language. By this the Amerindians were taught to read and write in their own language. Generally, with the lack of trained personnel in the techniques of literacy-teaching, the absence of suitable reading materials for students and the paucity of students registering at centres, the work had not gone apace as the **Adult Education Association** would have liked.

Adult Education itself has, however, made greater progress over the years. As time went on and changes occurred in the development of industry and commerce and as new techniques were required to meet the rapid innovations in the field of production and marketing, a greater number of persons opted to improve their academic levels or to gain academic certificates, as well as to learn and develop new skills in various crafts, in science and technology.



The Executive Director and Staff

The **Adult Education Association**, in the circumstances, played the role of a broker in order to meet the many and varying demands for education and training. The **Association** recruited teachers, provided accommodation and identified syllabi and more important, monitored instructions, conducted examinations and provided certificates to successful participants of the courses.

In all this, the **Association** received tremendous assistance from the government. All school buildings, after normal working hours, were and still are made available to the Association for the conduct of classes, gratis.

The **Association** is normally invited to participate in a variety of national boards, commissions, committees and councils concerned with education and training at various levels, with the purpose that it might be better informed of the nuances which obtain and the goals to which the nation aspires, and for which the population must receive relevant and adequate preparation.

Beyond the local scene, the **Association** has played a major role in organisations that service the world at large. It has been a member of the first Executive Committee of the International Council for Adult Education, a Canadian based organisation that has an advisory position in the United Nations. It has also been a founding member of the Caribbean Council for Adult Education (CARCAE), a regional body that services Adult Education activities in the Caribbean.

This year it has completed 40 years of solid, rewarding operations in Guyana. It has touched every region in the nation, and with increasing popularity, it continues to be a vital agent in the development strategy in Guyana.

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A.E.A. Holds Mammoth Graduation Ceremony

at National Cultural Centre

On Monday September, 1997 the Adult Education Association held a mammoth Graduation Ceremony at the Cultural Centre in Georgetown and presented 427 certificates to its graduates for the last academic year.

The graduands who were drawn from Georgetown, the East Coast and East Bank Demerara and the West Demerara District were addressed by Dr. Dale Bisnauth Minister of Education, Mr. Newton Profit, Executive Director of the A.E.A and Dr. Gem Fletcher Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana who gave the feature address.

Dr. Bisnauth in his address challenged the graduands to improve their work on what they had learnt, so that they could be gainfully and economically employed. He also urged them to impart their skills so that other Guyanese would benefit from their experiences. Excellence, he cautioned, should always be the maxim of their work ethics.

In his closing remarks the Hon. Minister of Education extended warm congratulations not only to the A.E.A. on its attainment of forty (40) years of service to the nation, but more specially to Mr. Newton Profit the lone survivor of the six who founded the Association. The others were the late Bishop Lester Guilly of the Roman Catholic Church in Guyana; then British Council Representative John Gayle; Trade Unionist Vincent Mc Calman; the then Colonial Treasurer Sir Frank Mc David and Mr. Adolph Thompson, Resident Tutor, University College of the West Indies.

The Executive Director in his brief remarks, said that he was extremely proud of the association's development and achievements, but lamented the fact that he was the sole survivor to share in this



Members of the Head Table

Inset: Dr. Gem Fletcher, V.C. University of Guyana delivering the feature address



Prof. Joycelyn Loncke congratulates Ms. Karen Dey, Tutor



Dr. Gem Fletcher V.C. of the University of Guyana, being presented with a bouquet

experience. He was extremely cognizant of the role the A.E.A. played in filling the void created by the formal education system.

He noted that the Association had extended its activities from Georgetown and now embraces the far-flung area of the Rupununi, North West District, Linden and the Corentyne Coast.

Mr. Profitt further said that he was at home with the 13 members of the Blind Institute who had successfully completed a course in Food and Nutrition. He also praised the tutors who worked with them for exhibiting tact, skill and ingenuity in working with those whose vision was impaired.

In a very pulsating address Dr. Gem Fletcher, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana, extended warmest felicitations and congratulations to the AEA and more especially to the Executive Director "for his sustained energies, creativity and perseverance in successfully bringing the association to this significant milestone in its history".

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor also shared some thoughts on what she called "meaningful alliance" as one strategy aimed at getting education to play the pivotal role in this country's development. Continuing, she said "we will need to give new meaning to the term 'Community Alliance' which is listed in the latest draft five (5) year Education Plan, as one of the broad policy areas that will be focused on; the others being access to Education, Curriculum Reform and Renewal, Administrative Management and Supervision, and Human Resource Development.

She congratulated all the graduates again and wished them well in the future

Quips

Execution

Hill-billy: *Why are you shooting at me Lester?
We have no quarrel.*

Lester: *That's true, but you remember old Zeke
and the old family feud you had with
him?*

Hill-billy: *That's right and I heard he's dead!*

Lester: *(taking aim again) I know. I am the
executor of his estate*

Profiles



Ms. Dottie Simpson

An experienced educationist and a qualified musician who has been associated with AEA for several years. She was in charge of the logistics for a variety of classes held at the St. George's School and did creditable work in enhancing the prestige envisage of AEA in maintaining a high standard of discipline and interest among students.

As a Board Member for the last four years she contributed to the work especially of music with the remedial classes held at headquarters.



Ms. Beulah Adola Grandsoult

Outgoing President, served two terms in that capacity 1993 - 1997. She became a member in 1970 and co-ordinated as well as conducted Typewriting and Office Practice in the Timehri Coverden areas up the East Bank of Demerara.

For outstanding service as an Executive member and her interest in the Association she was awarded a plaque in 1993.

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PRESIDENT LAUDS ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

at Awards Ceremony held at Queen's College

At an event organised by the Department of Culture and the Woodside Choir which was held in the Auditorium of Queen's College on Saturday September, 1997, President Samuel Hinds congratulated the Adult Association of Guyana for the part it has played in the education system over the past forty (40) years.

The President in his opening remarks said "On this auspicious occasion let me voice my salutation and, indeed, the salutation of my government to the Adult Education Association: Ladies and Gentlemen, you have served your country very well. Thank you. And you have achieved a significant milestone in your life - warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued years of exemplary service!"

The ceremony at which the President was the special guest was held in appreciation of individuals, groups, NGO's, as well as government agencies who had sustained, nurtured and supported the association over its forty (40) years of existence.

Among the recipients of awards were the Canadian High Commission, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Defence Force, Insurance Brokers Ltd., Humphrey's Bakery as well as several outstanding individuals. The programme consisted of musical renditions by the Woodside Choir, the versatile duo of John and Joycelyn Loncke, the Guyana Police Force Steel Band and verse speaking by pupils of the East Ruimveldt Primary School. These renditions were warmly applauded by the audience.



Awards Ceremony at Q.C. Left to right Ms. Carmen Jarvis, Mr. Newton Proffitt, H.E. The President Mr. Samuel Hinds & Ms. Adola Gransoult



Mr. Charles Boode accepts on behalf of the Canadian High Commission



Mr. Hydar Ally, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education makes a presentation.

Continuing his accolades to the Association the President said that he was aware that the strength of the Association was in the area of Skills Training and that those who benefitted from this training were in the main, persons who for one reason or another did not complete their formal education or if they did, did not acquire the skill and training necessary to make them employable, or even self-employable at something worthwhile. "The Nation applauds your services, keep it up," he added.

The Executive Director Mr. Newton Profitt, who is the sole surviving founder member, was singled out for special praise by the President.

Other speakers included Mr. Hydar Ally, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education who apologised for the absence of the Hon. Minister and pledged his Ministry's support for the continuance of the activities of the Association.

Ms. Carmen Jarvis, Secretary General of UNESCO spoke of the spirit of cooperation which exists between UNESCO and the Association and hoped that this would continue for many years.



Ms. Carmen Jarvis receives her award from The President.

Profiles



Ms. Shirley Field-Ridly
Former Minister of Education

An erudite and forward looking person. Notable for her pragmatic decisions on educational plans and programmes. Responsible for recommending in 1971, a whole-time Officer and Secretary for Adult Education in Guyana and provided Annual Grants out of the Government budget to meet this cost. The policy of Annual Grants to the Adult Education Association remains to this day and at present forms the basic source of upkeep which amounts to (more than) 55% of the Association's budget.



Pastor Almon Katryan

A protagonist of the development of human resources and is a volunteer Director of the No. 68 Roadside Baptist Church Skills-training Centre, a vibrant institution that conducts a variety of classes in academics, craft and technical disciplines. It is the largest and most progressive centre under the aegis of A.E.A. His wife, Nalin Katryan is Coordinator of Adult Education programmes on the Upper Corentyne, including Skeldon and Orealla and has recently been elected to the Executive Committee of the A.E.A. The Roadside Baptist Church was awarded a plaque in recognition of its services in the field of education and training of adults.

Profile

SOLE SURVIVING FOUNDER OF THE A.E.A.

Mr. Newton Louis Profitt, A.A.
Executive Director



Mr. Newton Louis Profitt has been an educator for all his working life. He started his career as a pupil teacher and later entered training college from which, after two years, he graduated as a trained first class teacher. He was promoted to the rank of headmaster in the year 1947.

Mr. Profitt so distinguished himself that he was one of those headmasters who were promoted to the rank of Education Officer (formerly Inspector of Schools).

This versatile gentleman also took an early interest in the co-operative movement and in fact served for seven years as Chairman of the National Co-operative Union. He was well qualified for this position having been trained at:

- (a) Loughborough College, England
- (b) Coady Institute, Nova Scotia, Canada
- (c) Western Co-operative College, Saskatchewan; Canada.

Apart from being with the Adult Education Association over its forty years of existence, Mr. Profitt has the unique distinction of completing his Silver Jubilee as its Executive Director. He has served in that position since the year 1971 when it was first created.

This gentleman of many parts is as well, a musician of no mean accomplishment. He plays the violin, the clarinet, the saxophone, the piano and the organ. While he is very competent on the first three, he is best known for his excellent performance on the last two which he plays with equal abandon.

As a consequence of his involvement in the Adult Education, Mr. Profitt has held positions in a number of organisations at home and overseas. Among those are:

- (a) The International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) - the first executive member from the Caribbean
- (b) The Caribbean Council for Adult Education (CARCAE)
- (c) The National Commission for the United Nations Educational and Social Council (UNESCO)
- (d) The Council of the University of Guyana where he served for eighteen years
- (e) The Board of the Critchlow Labour College from its foundation to the year 1992
- (f) A number of other national organisations.

Mr. Profitt also has done considerable work in community development and was actually posted at Monkey Mountain, Rupununi for that purpose in the year 19

For his wide- ranging and valuable contribution to the well- being of the nation he was awarded the Golden Arrow of Achievement(A.A.) in the year 1983.

Quips

Impulsive Cane Sucker

Gerts worked on the sugar plantation. The closest he got to a sugar cane plant was to watch the loaded punts passing by his field - maintenance workshop. Oh boy how he loved the juicy canes, his workmates on the punt will sling over to him several pieces of cane as they passed by. So that his fondest hobby was to settle down after work at the bottom of his back step peeling and sucking the nectar until the husk was cork dry. He praised himself on having the right tool for this job, a very sharp cutlass when he began peeling and sucking every afternoon until dusk. The world could pass him by, nothing else mattered

One day his sucking habit came to an abrupt end when as usual grinding a juicy piece in his mouth while holding and peeling the cane at the same time, a pesty bunderie fly came by "buzzing" around his head. If there is anything he hated most was a fly. As the hated creature buzzed menacingly around his head he fired a lash with his right hand, forgetting at that fateful moment he was still holding his razor-sharp cutlass in that hand, in an instant, the bunderie flew passed his nose and on the ground by the piece of cane he was still clutching, his right ear was fluttering.

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President's Message

His Excellency Mr. Samuel A. Hinds

Mr. Chairman,



I am very pleased to have been invited to be part of the celebration of The Adult Education Association of Guyana on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

On this milestone occasion let me voice my personal salutation and, indeed, the salutation of my government to the Adult Education Association: Ladies and gentlemen, you have served your country very well, thank you. And you have achieved a significant mile-stone in your life - warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued years of exemplary service!

It is very fitting that the Woodside Choir should be performing on this occasion. That, too, is a group that has an enviable record of service with distinction over many a decade. Long may the Woodside Choir continue to inspire the Guyanese people with its singing!

There is a Biblical verse, Genesis 5 and 27, which reads: *"All the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died."* This is all that is said of that man that lived the longest ever - he died. That is the saddest thing that can be said of any person or organisation: It or he has had a long life, and no more.

Fortunately, we can all say with good conscience that the AEA has completed forty years. But it has been forty years of commendable service in the area of non-formal education. This education has, in turn, benefited thousands of Guyanese who, were it not for the AEA, would not have been equipped to function adequately in the world of work.

Mr. Chairman, I am aware that the strength of the AEA is in the area of skills training. I am aware as well that those people who benefit from this training are, in the main, persons who, for one reason or another did not complete their formal education at school; or, if they did, did not acquire the skill and training necessary to make them employable, or even self-employable at something worthwhile. I am aware that the AEA provides on-going training as it were for employed persons. And, I am aware also that the work of the AEA is not limited to Georgetown, it is countrywide.

The work of the AEA, Mr. Chairman, is a valuable component in the national Human Resource Development drive. We are all aware that whatever our natural resources are, however rich we may be in them, that unless we have a work-force that is equipped with the necessary knowledge and relevant skills, we will not be able to exploit and develop our natural resources properly for our national economic benefit. Human Resource Development therefore is vital. Our Government is spending more in this crucial area. But the government alone cannot accomplish much. We need the assistance and support of non-governmental agencies and bodies like the Adult Education Association, in this national project.

It is with these things in mind that I wish, publicly, to commend the AEA for its outstanding service for forty years. You have certainly done in those years more than Methuselah did in 969 years!

And you have done two other things for which you ought to be commended. You have been a leader in the area of the distance mode of education-delivery; and you have drawn attention to the

need for continuing education and training for people who want to fine-tune their education and skills for a growing competitive job-market

But, Mr Chairman, when we think of the AEA we are not only thinking of an institution. In the final analysis we are speaking about people. And, tonight we recognize the men and women who have served the AEA with distinction, over the years. In whatever capacities they served - whether as teachers and instructors, whether as board members or as persons responsible for the day-to-day operations of the AEA, in whatever capacity, we want to say to them: Ladies and gentlemen, you have done well; the nation applauds your services.

And to Mr Newton Profit, the man at the helm of things for so many years, we say: You thoroughly deserve our highest praise. Thank you very much!

Before I resume my seat, let me at a time when we are focusing on education for excellence and development, remind the AEA that it cannot afford to rest on its laurels. We have to remember that literacy now means computer literacy as well as the capacity to read, compute and think at a high functional level. Education now means learning throughout all of life. Acquired skills have to be continually fine-tuned. The coming century will place complex and unprecedented demands on our work-force in a growing globalized and competitive world.

Education, at both the formal and non-formal levels, will have to anticipate those demands and cater for them. Educational institutions will have to be creative, innovative and enterprising, in their approach to the project of equipping people to live worthwhile functional lives in the future.

I have every confidence that with such a fine tradition developed over forty years, and with such a solid record of service, that the AEA will be alive to such new challenges that it will face, and that it will respond creatively to these challenges.

Thank you very much!

Profiles



Ms. Eileen Nedd

Ms. Eileen Nedd has been a teacher in the formal school system for thirty-one (31) years.

She retired as Senior Mistrees but was re-employed and has been serving in the formal School System up to the present time.

Ms. Nedd joined the Adult Education Association in 1975. She taught English at the Dolphin Government School now called Dolphin Community High School. For several years she was engaged in A.E.A.'s Outreach programmes in Mocha and Anna Regina.

When in 1985, the Georgetown School of Nursing included academic subject in its Nursing Programme, the A.E.A. was approached for assistance and Ms. E. Nedd was chosen to conduct classes in English Language. She has done that continually from 1985 to present time.



Ms. Brenda Johnson

A most indefatigable, industrious and charismatic member of the AEA. As a Community Develop Officer for several years in the Ancient County, she brought into the Association a wealth of experience in the psychology of the adolescent and a working knowledge of the problems

and influences affecting the education, training and personality development of the young adults in New Amsterdam.

As Co-ordinator of the functional literacy programme in that town, she scored tremendous success among the female inmates of the New Amsterdam prison, many of whom received certificates of credit after completing their courses.

Brenda is a member of the Board of the Adult Education Association and an alternate to the Vice President, Berbice, on the Executive Committee.

Brenda Johnson was awarded the Medal of Service for her contribution to Welfare Service.

He has been a cricketer, a pillar of the Anglican Church, and is variably known as Evergreen, Proff, Newt, Lou and Louis. Indeed he seems to merit one of his many appellations - **Man-for All Seasons**.



Mr. Profitt receiving his self-portrait.



Board of Directors of A.E.A.



Profile

Mr. George Allan Martindale
Bursar - AEA

"Our Bursar" as he is fondly referred to is slim, agile, greying at the sideboards, wears no beard as do many of his colleagues and appears to have some problems keeping his mouthstache in the prime colour of black. No one seems to know his age, but who cares, he seems able to perform any task given him with the same alacrity and dexterity of a 35 year old. His age is as secret as the contents of a PHAROAH'S TOMB. His sense of humour leaves much to be understood, his speech is a blended mixture of English, North Country and Guyanese creolese from way back. There is nothing in that Good Book that he cannot quote in defence of any argument. He seldom gets into an argument and is not easily drawn into one. He claims that he was born in the ancient county, New Amsterdam and very promptly left that place one year after.

His early education started at St Ambrose, Alberrtown and later at the F.E. Pollard Schools in Kitty, then on to Standard High School and British Guiana Commercial School in Georgetown when he graduated as a certified Bookkeeper.

The young George then proceeded abroad to further studies in Commerce and Economics at the University of London and the Regent Polytechnic. He then entered the British Civil Service in the Postmaster General Department as a Clerical Officer where he worked through the ranks for more than 10 years.

On Guyana gaining its Independence, he was drafted back home in 1966 and served in several offices in the Public Service and Guyana State Corporation. His final position before joining the A.E.A. in 1993 was that of Finance Manager of the Guyana Telecommunication Corporation. He is married with seven children.

At the A.E.A. he serves as an Accountant, Coordinator of Information Technology and at his present position of Bursar. He holds the Degree of Fellow of the Institute of Commerce - London; the Diploma in Economics, a past Member of the British Institute of Management -London, and of the Institute of Corporate Accountants and Auditors (the latter now defunct).

Orealla Women Attend A.E.A.'s Vacation Course

Nine ladies from Orealla on the Corentyne River attended an A.E.A.'s skill-training and academic course at the Roadside Baptist Church Skill-Training Centre, No. 68 Corentyne. The crash courses lasting for six (6) weeks began on the first week of August and were co-ordinated by Mrs. Nalin Katryan. They included dress making, cake decoration, crochet and typing, together with basic mathematics and English.

The project was financed by the Orealla District Council, and was supported by the Social Impact Amelioration Project (SIMAP) which provided food hampers for the trainees and tutors. The programme enjoyed an international flavour with the presence of Mike Kim, a Peace Corps Volunteer, whose special expertise is the teaching of mathematics and English.

The group under the leadership of Mrs. Ann Peneux, wife of the Captain of the Orealla Mission was accommodated at the Springlands Amerindian Hostel for the duration of the project. The tutors involved were all of the A.E.A. teaching staff of the Roadside Baptist Church Skill Training Centre.

Those graduates from the course will conduct similar classes on their return to the Mission at Orealla.

Profile



Mr. Leon Davis

Executive Director, Food For The Poor

Mr. Davis has been unparalleled in his contribution to Education in general, and to the Adult Education Association specifically, by his donation of books, furniture and equipment. He has on many occasions given a filip to the spread of Adult Education practices in rural areas and in the more indigent sections of our town.

Food For The Poor has become a household word, high on the popularity rating, and an invaluable resource for subscribing to the needs of the ambitious poor, eager to be trained in skills for self development.

Profiles



Mr. Sydney Duncan

A pioneer and the co-ordinator of A.E.A.'s training and educational courses in the village of

Beterverwagting. Sydney Duncan is a popular figure in the village and has membership in a variety of organisations and is involved in a variety of social and community development organisations. It was in this capacity that he identified the need for education and training particularly among the jobless youths in the district. Himself an expert welder, his first approach to the solution of the problem was to seek the assistance of AEA in planning and executing welding courses by which students crafted and fabricated implements such as shovels, spades, hoes etc.

The popularity of these classes and the perceived requirement for a reasonable level of literacy and accuracy led him to introduce academic programmes, that subsequently led to the GCE & CXC examinations.

In recognition of his valuable service he was elected a member of AEA's Board of Directors.



Mr. Desmond Daniels

Has been the Tutor of A.E.A.'s Electronic Classes from 1989 to date. He also specializes in Radio & T.V repairs.

Guyana Forestry Commission



**Committed to Conserving and Protecting
Guyana's Rainforest Resources**

**1 Water Street, Kingston,
Georgetown, Guyana**

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67271-4 Fax: 68956
Commissioner of Forests:
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Head, Human Resources
54191
Head Forest Industries Unit:
63273
Forest Industries Unit (General Office):
69295
Asst. Commissioner (Resource Management Unit):
66407

Asst. Commissioner (Harvesting):
67240
Administrative Manager:
53897
Security Officer:
67365
Botanic Gardens Nursery:
68082
Forest Station Fort Canjie:
03 - 2162
Forest Station Springlands:
039 - 2308
Forest Station Christianburg Wismar:
04 - 2464
Forest Station Bartica Essequibo:
05 - 2332
Forest Station Soesdyke:
061 - 2310

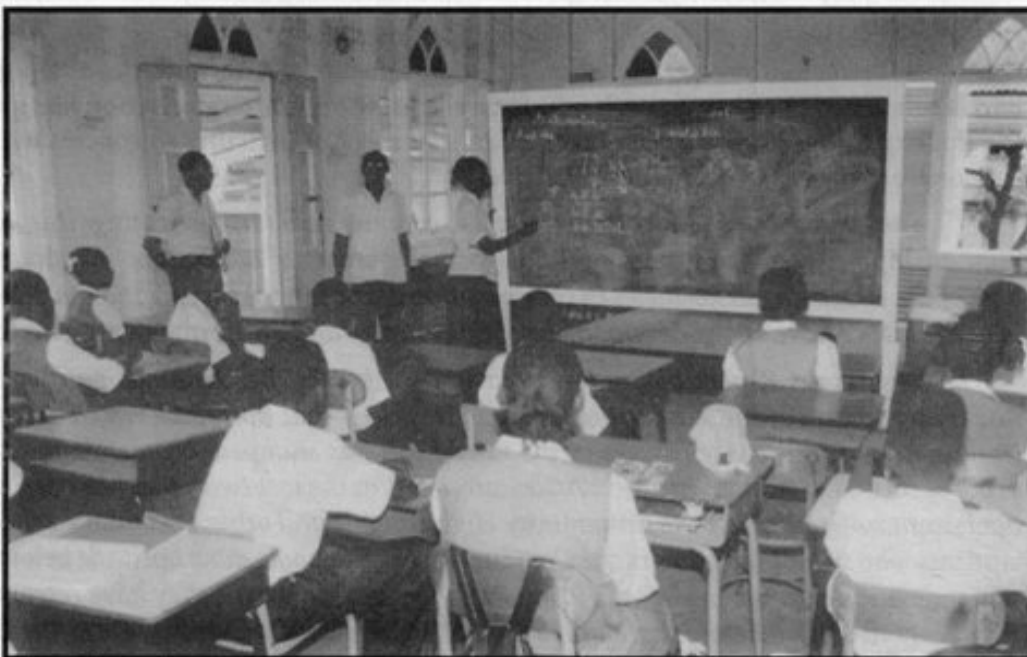
Launching of the Albouystown Centre

The Albouystown Remedial School, located on James Street and run by the Adult Education Association of Guyana was broken into on Monday night, 24th - 25th November, 1997. The intruders took away a sink used for washing hands and a water pitcher. The items are valued at \$9,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

The centre is part of the Dharm Shala complex controlled by the Hindu Religious Society and managed by Mr. Harry Ramsaroop, whose father, the late Pandit Ramsaroop Mahraj, launched that philanthropic organisation some seven decades ago. The building housing the school had been erected to provide a learning opportunity for the disadvantaged youths of that area and had been declared open in 1925 by Sir Cecil Rodwell Hunter the then Governor of British Guiana. Subsequently, it had been used by the Ministry of Education, until a year ago, under the name Albouystown Nursery School.

When the Nursery School moved to the Y.M.C.A. building on Albouys and Sussex Streets, Mr Ramsaroop and the Adult Education Association discussed the idea of using the facility as a centre for remedial education. After some discussion involving community leaders in Albouystown and approved by the Hindu Religious Society, the Albouystown Remedial School was formally launched on Monday, 20th October, 1997, with the main address being delivered by Mr. Hydar Ally.

The School started with thirty-five youths of both sexes, some of whom are from Albouystown itself with others coming from elsewhere in Georgetown and beyond. Mainly, they comprise those students who did not perform well at Community High Schools and are now being prepared for the Adult Education Association's Junior High School Certificate.



Class in session

Mr. Newton Profitt, Executive Director of the Adult Education Association, is determined that this incident would not weaken the organisation's resolve to help these youngsters make a new start and earn respectable places in the society. He is concerned, however, about possible security costs, in the light of this break-in. Estimates in this respect indicate that this could be in the vicinity of \$70,000 per month and could be higher, depending on how many security personnel are engaged - a situation much beyond the financial calculations of the organisation.

There had been some discussion with the community about their possible support in various areas. It is now hoped that security could become a priority in that respect. The Executive Director proposes to meet parents and community leaders shortly and it is expected that he will seek their active involvement on this subject, among others.

View Point



(Prepared by the Executive Director)
Aired on 15-09-1997 by
Mr. Claude B. Philadelphia

One of the more progressive approaches to the development of Education in Guyana, within recent times, has been the declaration of Education Month annually.

The purpose generally is to focus attention to, and galvanise interest in education generally and at various levels.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Adult Education Association is a non-government organisation and is concerned in the main with non-formal education, the Organisation has gradually been drawn into the thick of things and has been involved in a number of activities in concert with the formal system and supportive of the general aims and objectives.

The Minister of Education must be commended for instituting this new timely and effective relationship between the formal and non-formal systems of Education. No doubt the good Minister took note of the increasing deficiencies in the operation of the formal system and the deleterious effect these would in consequence have on the development of this country and on life and living generally.

The recent Report of the Research undertaken by Dr. Jennings painted a rather depressing and unnerving picture of the state of literacy, and it is clear that the status which this country once enjoyed as a leading nation in literacy ratings in the Caribbean has slumped to an embarrassingly low level. There is proof of this. The Adult Education Association within the last two years has been conducting day classes for adolescents who have left the Community High Schools and other Secondary Schools. It is common to find students who spent four years in the Community High Schools show aptitude below even the Primary II level, - an indication that having left the Primary School at Primary IV, they have retrogressed during the three or four years to a point below that of the Primary IV level with which they enter the Community High Schools. They show little knowledge of phonetics. Their handwriting or calligraphy is often indiscernible and their knowledge of even multiplication tables is cause for alarm. They hesitate to respond to simple questions, the answers of which they fully know and they experience difficulty in making simple statements or in expressing their own ideas, all because they are unsure of their choice of words, of their grammar and their pronunciation.

Remarkably however, these very students who had been failures in the formal system within a few months in the great majority of cases change dramatically.

In the first place they show an eagerness to learn. They are regular and punctual. They are

obedient to the rules concerning quiet speech and respect for teachers. They demonstrate a willingness to give assistance and accept assistance among their peers in a co-operative way. Not least of all, their general deportment and conduct improved with very little goading from their tutors. They respond eagerly to encouragement. There are however, reasons for this change. The first is the new concern of parents. Because parents now pay for their tuition, they accordingly are keen to observe the cost benefit of doing so. Secondly, there is a growing awareness of the students of the need to start earning a living and the importance of qualifying themselves early for the labour market - this is the kind of self motivation. Thirdly, the teachers are experienced and in many cases specialists who, because of the paucity of numbers, an average of 25 to a class can give individual attention to students. Not least of all, the environment in which they work is silent, tidy, peaceful, well ventilated and conducive to serious work. Then too, opportunities are given to them at weekly sessions to address their peers in three- minute talks as a training in Public Speaking and improving their ability to express themselves intelligently, correctly and fluently to their peers.

Indeed Remedial Classes are laboratories where from the experiments conducted with innovations, one gets a clear picture of the causative factors and the weaknesses affecting the formal system.

The new Functional Literacy Committee recently launched by the Minister of Education includes the Adult Education Association and this linkage, I am sure, will be of tremendous benefit in the restructuring and re-organising of the Education System in Guyana to meet this far-from-trifling challenge. Hats off to the National Functional Literacy Committee.

Quips

Persuasion

The family had received a Thanksgiving Day card depicting a Pilgrim family on their way to church. Grandma showed the card to one of the young grandchildren and remarked:

"You see? The Pilgrim's children liked going to church with their parents"

"Is that so?" her grandson replied. "Then why is dad walking behind with a rifle over his shoulder?"

Profiles



Mrs. Bibi Annief

One of our experienced tutors in English Language. A keen no nonsense tutor and co-ordinator. For the past five years she conducted English Language Courses in A.E.A's programme for professional Nurses at the School of Nursing.

Bibi has recently been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the A.E.A.



Mr. Eubric A.P. Chapman

Now in his twenty sixth year as a member of A.E.A. He was responsible for introducing and co-ordinating the Building Construction Courses, which included Building Science, Building Construction, Properties of Materials, Quantity Surveying and Site Practice. He remained for several years a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of the A.E.A.

Women of New Amsterdam Prison and Black Bush Polder Lauded for Participation in AEA Training Programmes.

The New Amsterdam Branch of the Adult Education Association of Guyana held its annual Graduation Exercise at the Mission Chapel Primary School on Saturday, 4th October, 1997. The event was another in a nation-wide observance of the AEA's 40th Anniversary and a sizeable and appreciative audience was present.

Presiding over the afternoon's affair was Mr. Santon Lambert, Headmaster of St Theresa's Primary School and a long-standing member of the Association's Board. The main address was presented by Mr John Lewis, Chief Executive Officer, Berbice Mining Enterprise while there were remarks by Mr. Newton L. Profitt, Executive Director of the AEA and only surviving member of its founders.

Ms. Valerie Fraser, Coordinator of the New Amsterdam Centre gave an interesting overview of the courses which were undertaken over the past year. These included a programme in Functional Literacy for fifteen inmates of the New Amsterdam Prison. Courses included Tailoring, Dressmaking, Cake Decoration, Crochet and Floral Arrangement. She was gratified at the response from residents over a wide area, to the courses on offer. Thirty-two ladies from Black Bush Polder for example took courses in Dressmaking and Cake Decoration. These participants were, indeed so pleased that they have already launched into other courses, including Crochet and Tailoring.

The Guest Speaker congratulated the AEA upon attaining forty years of involvement in its field of operations. He counseled, however, that more might be possible with a greater measure of self-advertisement. There are thousands out there who need the kind of help being offered and the Association would better be able to carry out its mission by letting these know that it has something to offer and what it has on offer.



He was particularly happy about two sets of persons receiving certificates on that occasion. The fifteen inmates of the New Amsterdam Prison were to be applauded for employing what time they had available to improve their competence in academic fields. He equally congratulated both the tutors and the ladies of Black Bush, one set for offering the

Successful students of the Food & Nutrition and Pastry Making Courses proudly display the dishes prepared for the final day exhibition

relevant courses and the other for coming forward to make the most of the opportunity. He urged the men of the community to come forward as well to benefit from the help offered by the AEA. Our women, he said were fast outstripping their male counterparts in acquisition of skills and knowledge.



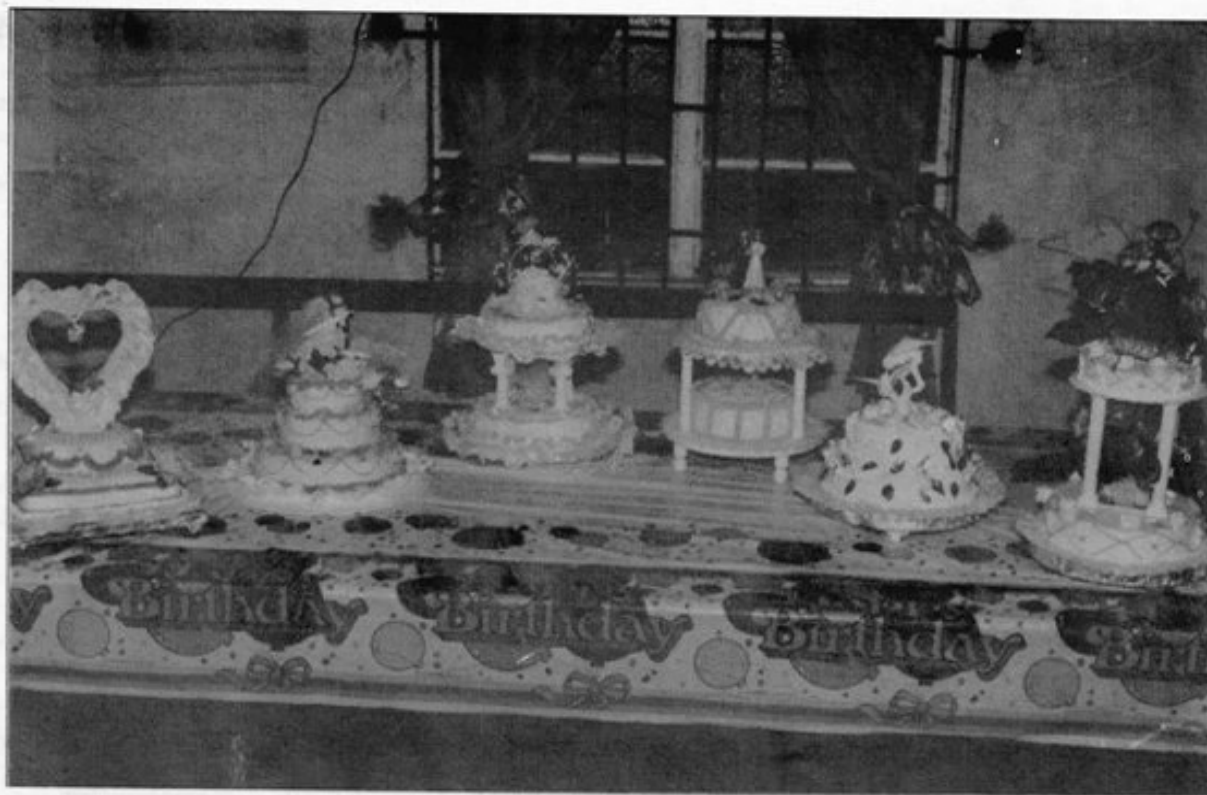
Items of Craft made by students of the Women's Outreach Programme.

Mrs. Michalene Wilson, Head of the Adult Education Association's Women's Outreach Programme presented an interesting outline of the progress achieved by the Women's Outreach Programme over the two years of its operation. She pointed out that over the past year over a dozen new centres were launched and that there were at least four new localities, in Regions three, four and nine which were now proposing to set up centres under the aegis of the AEA. It did turn out, however, that three men were among those persons who graduated with Certificates in Tailoring.

The Executive Director, Mr. Newton L. Profitt, earlier gave a brief and at times witty resume of the AEA's history and expressed his pride and gratification at being a part of that history. He congratulated the New Amsterdam Branch, its tutors and those who were receiving certification that day. He was happy that the ladies from such a wide area had come forward to add to their store of knowledge, happy also that they looked upon the AEA to provide that knowledge and those skills.

One hundred and fourteen certificates were presented to the successful participants by Ms. Audrey Field, Administrator of the New Amsterdam Hospital and Ms Joyce Thomas an official of the Salvation Army in New Amsterdam.

The programme was enlivened with two well executed dances by petite six-year-old Shaneza Hussain, verse speaking by Mrs Brenda Johnson, a skit by students of the AEA and two professionally - rendered songs, one by an excellent and promising contralto, Ms Beverly De Jonge.



Women's Outreach Programme displays its handiwork.

Academic, Management and Technical Department

By Walter A. Jordan



This arm of the Association, officially described as the Programmes Department, was formerly the core of the Adult Education Association's operations.

During the period ending with the Christmas term, 1997 there was a significant upsurge in admissions to all the programmes in the Georgetown area, as well as an increasing demand for the resumption or start of classes on the West Demerara, East Coast Demerara, Linden and New Amsterdam.

In Georgetown, academic classes were held at headquarters and at two school buildings, St. George's and St. Mary's Community High Schools. When the latter was demolished we were fortunate to be allowed to use the neighbouring Brickdam Secondary School. For a number of reasons given by the headmaster, including a peculiar security problem, we have been unable since St. Mary's was reconstructed, to return to that venue. As a consequence, with the increased enrolment in all subjects, we have found it rather difficult to find accommodation. This situation is aggravated by the fact that those schools which have usually accommodated us have been inundated with a concurrent demand for after-school tuition for their own students.

There will be, as a consequence of this two-pronged pressure, a need in the near future, to review the accommodation arrangements for A.E.A.'s beneficiaries. Where there were one, two or three parallel classes in 1996, for example, in any subject, there are, at November 1997, three, four and five.

Of course, apart from the special emphasis A.E.A. places upon minimal charges, we have always insisted upon class size being arranged to afford convenient student/tutor contact and attention. Those who have benefited in earlier years would, therefore be, passing the word to their compatriots, that A.E.A. offers the best prospects for comfortable, affordable learning.

Remedial classes are held at headquarters for teenagers who had not done well, mainly at Community High Schools. In 1996 there were two such groups attending a three-hour session each, 9-12 from Monday to Friday. In September of that year, the clamour for that level of tuition had so increased that two parallel 1-4 p.m. classes were launched, and still the demand was inadequately met.

A hope to be allowed use of the Lodge extra-mural building of the Co-operative College, has proved constantly tantalising but unfulfilled. It was with some relief, therefore, that late in 1997 we were offered the building in Albouystown, that formerly housed the area's Nursery School. This facility is the property of the Dharm Shala, whose Superintendent, Mr. Harry Ramsaroop, has been, for some time, a good friend and benefactor of the A.E.A.

As a consequence of this good fortune, some forty students were accommodated at this centre from Christmas term 1997.

After-work classes have been offered, for a number of years, to adults wishing to improve their competence in literacy. These classes are held at the St. Barnabas School on Regent Road, from 5.00 to 7.00 p.m. twice weekly. The students are enthusiastic and the augury of improvement is, therefore, promising. Here too, it has been necessary to increase the number of tutors in the past year.

An 18-month course, Introduction to Statistics, ends in December 1997. This programme provides tuition to the level of an A.E.A. Diploma and will ensure a working knowledge of the subject. Some participants, as was anticipated, have dropped out of the programme. Those who have battled it out however have done so with tremendous enthusiasm. It is confidently hoped that most of these will seek to do further study in this subject.

Principles of Communication, a new programme on offer in January 1997 could only accommodate twenty-five applicants on a first-come first-in basis. This is being remedied for the 1998 class which, through the co-operation of the Headmistress of St. John's College, will be accommodated there. The next Personnel Management Programme, of three months duration, will also be held at St. John's College. The A.E.A. has been fortunate to obtain the services of two well-qualified practitioners, Messrs Peter Fraser and Godfrey Tucker-Chalmers respectively, for these programmes.

Mr. Desmond Daniels, a well-known radio and television technician, has been in charge of our relevant group for many years. Some twenty students participated in 1997 of whom 15 graduated. Twenty-five applicants have been accommodated at headquarters for the new programme.

Refrigeration Servicing has received a boost. Mr. Allan St. C. De Jonge will take over that class in the new year. It appears that here, too, there is great demand for instruction among out-of-school young persons, as well as some workers who are not satisfied with their current earning power.

Other Programmes:

The Association was involved in providing tuition in Basic English and Elementary Mathematics in 1997 for a Pre-Nursing Programme organised by the General Nursing Council.

It is perhaps a vote of confidence that, after engaging the Association to hold a two-day workshop on Customer Relations for workers in its Treasurer's Department, the City of Georgetown requested us to mount two others. One over twenty-four contact hours, was titled Effective Customer Care and intended for Secretaries, Telephonists and Receptionists. The other was a programme of training in Basic English for members of the Council's Warden Corps. This involved twenty contact hours.

The outlook is promising. However, as seen, it will clearly mean an expansion in the availability of accommodation over the next few years. It is possible that a new and permanent location might be required, but this is something that will very likely be discussed at various levels in the months ahead. The twenty-first century looms and its demands will include both greater effort and increased capacity.

The Association is humbly proud of its growing popularity as a suitable provider of instruction to employees of a number of entities. They came from the commercial sector, the para-military, the public sector, some self-financed, others sponsored by their employers. The A.E.A. is reassured at this clear vote of confidence.

We shall do everything in our power to pursue our mission which is *"to provide by informal means, such education and training needs as the formal system has not supplied"*.



Explanation

*I looked up this new dictionary for the definition of "tax cut"
and it said "See tax hike"*

40th Anniversary

Honour Roll

Bibi Annief	Adola Grandsoult
Sylvia Alexander	Daulina Hill
Lynette Argyle	Brenda Johnson
Esnule Ali	Walter Jordan
Norma Bovell	Nalin Katyan
Urma Butters	Santon Lambert
Hans Barrow	Urmilla Latchana
Eloise Booker	Isaac Linton
Michael Brown	Raj Mangal
Doreen Butcher	Fitzroy Marshall
Arthur Browne	Daphne Mayers
Gladstone Critchlow	Samuel Moffatt
Eubric Chapman	Eileen Nedd
Sydney Cummings	Bobby Outar
Joshua Chowritmootoo	Juliet Patterson
George Cave	Anita Persaud
Elsa Charles	Prisca Philadelphia
James Cummings	Claude Philadelphia
Myrtle Dundas	Wanda Phillips
Rudolph Davidson	Carmen Raj
Sydney Duncan	Kella Ramsaroop
Leon Davis	Maisie Rayside
Harold Davis	Jenny Simon
Vernon Davis	Dottie Simpson
Karen Dey	Clement Smith
Charles Fraser	Leslie Sobers
Valerie Fraser	Beryl Valentine
Megan Grenville	Doreen Wong
Frederick Granger	Michellane Wilson
Paulette Garnette	

Profiles



Mrs. Anita Persaud

Mrs. Anita Persaud was a former Bank Supervisor, secretary, teacher and head of the South Ruimveldt Commercial School. She is also the wife of the Rev. Dale Persaud of the Clonbrook Assemblies of God Church; past Secretary and present Treasurer of the Guyana Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers Widows. She has represented this organisation in several Caribbean Islands as well as in the United States of America. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Christian Education, is a Christian Educator and Community Worker who is dedicated to helping the less fortunate and using her many talents to uplift the standard of literacy in the Ann's Grove/Clonbrook/Beehive/Two Friends area. Mrs. Persaud is also a dedicated mother of six actively involved in the P.T.A. of their schools.

Since becoming the co-ordinator of the Clonbrook Centre of the A.E.A. in May 1997 she has successfully conducted several courses, and two exhibitions and ongoing English, Maths and Integrated Science classes.



Mr. Thomas Sandiford

One of the early stalwarts, together with Wallerstein Scott, Harold Davis, Basil Armstrong and Samuel Small et al. he attained the position of Assistant Secretary and Vice President during the early years and was instrumental in extending the operations of the A.E.A. on the Essequibo Coast, West Coast Demerara, Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

Adult Education Association Graduates Thirteen in Child Care.

The Adult Education Association graduated a group of ladies who had undergone an intensive three-month course in Child Care. The programme was executed in collaboration with the Guyana Association of Professional Social Workers (GAPSW) who provided the tutors for the purpose.

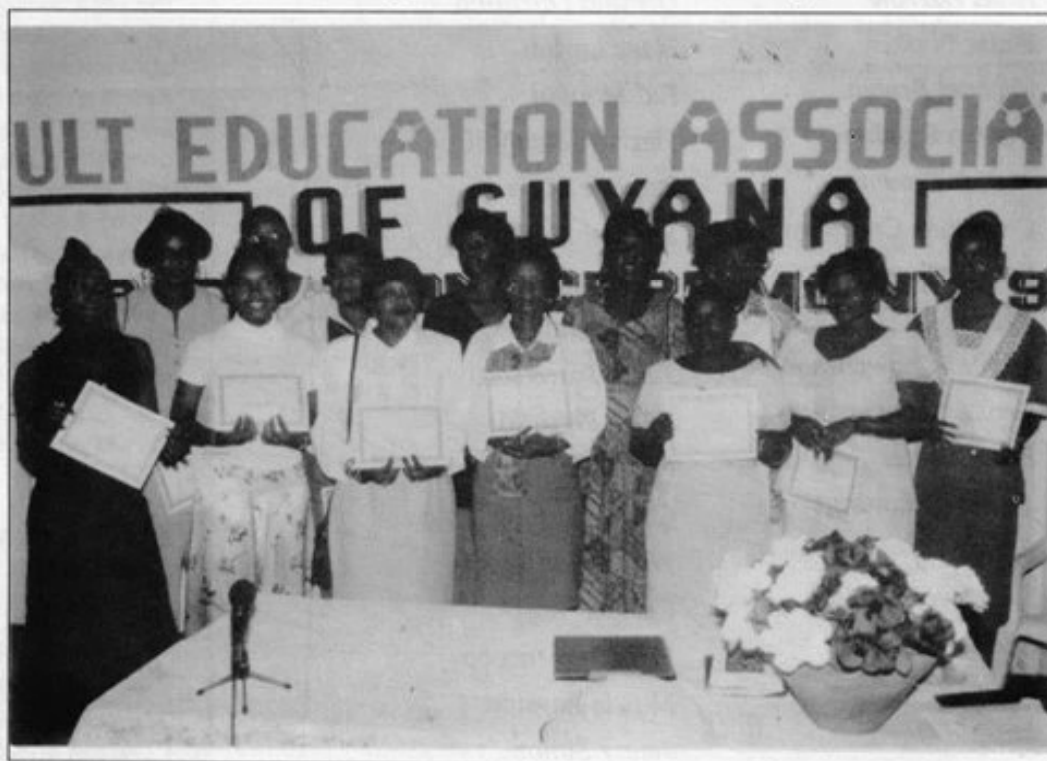
A closing ceremony held at the Parish Hall, Church of the Holy Rosary, Kitty, on Wednesday 11th September, 1997 and attended by a number of special invitees and well-wishers, was stirred by a Special Address delivered by the Guest Speaker, Ms Daniele Brady of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Earlier, Mr Newton Profitt, Executive Director of the AEA had expressed his delight at his good fortune and that of his organisation, in enlisting the collaboration of the Guyana Association of Professional Social Workers (GAPSW) in such a worthy labour of love. He hoped that training in Child Care as exemplified by the just completed programme would have a salutary impact on the society as a whole and upon working parents and their families, in particular.

The objectives of the course were aimed at enabling participants to:

1. Explore the development of the self.
2. Acquire knowledge of human growth and development.
3. Develop and practise skills, qualities and techniques, to perform competently as child care workers.
4. Cope with the emotional and behavioural problems of children in their care.
5. Administer/initiate emergency life-saving techniques.
6. Develop basic play activities for children in their care.

The graduands, as part of the closing exercise, entertained guests with a nicely-designed skit demonstrating their newly-acquired training.



Child Care Graduands



Message

Norma Bovell

I, Norma Bovell, joined the New Amsterdam Branch of the Association under the leadership of Reuben Dash, the Chairman.

As a result of my interest in and love for assisting other people, which is captioned in the Motto of the Association, "Helping People To Help Themselves", I progressed from the ranks of an individual member to Coordinator of the Association. This progression came in a very short period of time due to my dedication, hard work, and desire to help others.

My unbridled commitment continued within the Berbice Group of the Association. This dedication was reflected in my recruitment of new members to tutor, and providing instructions in a variety of subjects. During the 1978 Easter semester, I was the first to be trained at the Craft Production and Design Center, located on Camp Street, Georgetown, under the talented Ms. Olga Britton.

Mr. Profitt and his organization was the first outside organization to create a handicraft training programme at the Craft Production Centre. My instructor was Ms. Elaine Walcott who taught Macrame' and other crafts.

After completing the training programme, I returned to New Amsterdam to teach at Vryman's Ervin Community High School. I was responsible for the resurgence and/or revolutionizing of handicraft particularly Macrame' throughout the Berbice and especially at the Adult Education Centre at the New Amsterdam Multilateral School.

My exemplary work at the New Amsterdam Centre spread rapidly under the leadership of the Right Rev. Richard Taylor and Mr. Lewis. During this particular time, I became Secretary to the Rev. Taylor and accompanied him in the field to attend to the Adult Education Association field work throughout the Corentyne Coast to Mara East Bank Berbice, and Fort Wellington, West Coast Berbice.

During my stewardship as the Adult Education Association Coordinator, a significant number of students leaving school early, youth groups and others greatly benefited from pioneering programmes such as the nursing programme, the hair culture, and fish culture in which all achieved significant success. Mr. George Bailey, the former Fish Culture Administrator, was one of the most influential Adult Education Association officers and tutors. He was responsible for establishing several training programmes in fish rearing and processing throughout the Berbice Region.

The Adult Education Training Centre became so active that at an Adult Education Association General Meeting in the early 1980's, it passed a motion to elevate the Berbice Centre to the Adult Education Association Berbice Branch.

The early 1980's brought an enhanced relationship between the Berbice Branch and the Regional Number 6 Administration. The then Regional Chairman, Surugnarine Singh and Vice-Chairman, Santon Lambert, were overly impressed with our informal educational courses. Hence, with a little negotiation, they greatly increased the Adult Education grant during that period of time.

Regional Chairman, Surugnarine Singh, further provided office space for the Berbice Branch in the Regional Administration Building. This led to the Adult Education Branch having a paid Secretary and Coordinator. I continued my diligent hard work and endless hours to infuse the vibrancy and success of the Branch. As a result, the Branch was invited to sit on all of the Regional Heads of Government meetings and participate in all of the regional activities.

Having contributed to the success and development of the Berbice branch, I took a leave of absence to allow me to recuperate from the constant, continuous and consistent commitment to develop the Berbice Branch. In 1987, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to come to the United States. While I am no longer in Berbice and Guyana in general, the knowledge, education and insight gained from my struggle during the early days of the Association has contributed to my growth as a more progressive responsible individual.

The satisfaction from helping other people coupled with the flamboyance of Mr. Profitt's leadership in the Adult Education Association is priceless to my spiritual and human development.

With my past and present experiences, I am able to own a successful fashion business as well as attend college. No matter whether you're in Guyana or in the United States, education is the key to success.

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Message

George A. Martindale

Bursar

The Adult Education Association

Information Technology has greatly improved during the last two decades and the chief instrument used in this field of communication in processing of the vast amount of data is the computer in its modern and advanced form usually referred to in the business as personalised computer 'PC.' With this digital operative system, it is possible for the average business manager to sit in his/her office and receive vital, reliable and up-to-the-minute information about the state of affairs not only of his business, but that of other relevant concerns.

Here is a unique technology that is rapidly changing in its scope and capability so that no sooner have you mastered the unique complexities of its application, the technology changes.

In a world full of technological innovations in the workplace and in society as a whole, every citizen will eventually need to be able to interface with the complex techniques and rapid growth of information technologies, in order therefore to take their rightful place and to survive in the new society..

Over the years the Adult Education Association of Guyana has been playing a most important role in the education process of this country, providing a last chance, so to speak, to disadvantaged persons who are making a desperate effort against all odds to render themselves functionally capable of sharing in the social and economic spoils of a rapidly advancing state in which they live.

And so it was that on the 14th of November, 1994 with limited resources at its disposal and generous assistance from helpful organisations both at home and abroad, the Association launched a computer operation training project, offering foundation programmes in the use of personalised computer in five subjects - DOS, Wordperfect, Lotus 1-2-3, Data Base Management and Harvard Graphics leading up to the Association's Diploma in computer operating.

The responses to our programmes were so successful and gratifying that by the first Graduation Exercise in March 1996, 185

Profiles



Mr. Gladstone Oscar Critchlow

Life member, Past Vice President and Specialist Tutor. Joined the A.E.A. in 1965 and was elected to the Executive Committee in 1972. He introduced and conducted courses in Statistics and Principles of Management for ten years.

He was the Chief Architect of the present Constitution.



Mr. Joseph Lambert

Was without doubt one of the most dynamic, courageous and aggressive President ever of the Association. With a rather fertile brain, he initiated many changes in the objectives and programmes of the Association. Together with the present Executive Director he attended many Seminars and Conferences in London, Toronto and Dar Es Salaam as well as, in the Islands in the Caribbean. From this exposure, he was able to steer the Organisation and give it the impetus to spread its influence in wider geographical areas and more varied programmes in Education and Training.

students had been trained in the various computer subjects. Further during the Association's 40th Anniversary in 1997, some 361 persons have taken computer operating courses with a total of 62% successes.

To have accomplished all this with only four computers was no mean task. It took many long hours and anxious moments together with selfless dedication of all the staff involved.

Why is there so great a demand for the knowledge and the use of computers? In short why is Computer Technology coursing through the world of business and social activities with such fearful rapidity?

My only conjecture at this point is that in our modern world of speed and accuracy, the need to preserve and recall reliable information in greater volume and at rapid speed becomes vitally necessary. The "Micro Diskette Operating System" as a feature of a modern computer is the first reliable method of satisfying this need. At the touch of a button information of almost any kind and dimension about your business can be stored and recalled. There can be economic saving of space and time. There can be saving in the use of labour, paper, ink, pens, storage space etc.

Computers perform the work of Auditors at a faster and more reliable rate.

To conclude, computers not only remove clerical drudgery out of the business but enhance its reliability of information and thereby quicken the art of decision making.





Message

Pamela Henry
Former ACEO (Nursery)
Ministry of Education

I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to subscribe to this 40th Anniversary Publication of the ANDRAGOG and to heartily congratulate the Adult Education Association on the attainment of yet another significant milestone. The Association has made a noteworthy contribution over its span of existence in making a major difference in the training and education of individuals and undoubtedly the nation as a whole.

As you commemorate the occasion in Education Month, may the Association be reminded of its continued important role in changing positively the level of literacy in the nation. This multi-dimensional task encompasses preparing individuals attitudinally and with skills for jobs and careers, keeping in step with the technological scenario which will be before us in the 21st century, promoting literacy programmes in the most basic sense and very important, providing for the needs of young school-leavers with serious gaps in their education.

In order for the Association to be adequately equipped for the tasks which lie ahead, tremendous expansion in very many ways is envisioned. The A.E.A. is all about giving second chances. Everyone needs a second chance.

May the Association experience many more successes in all its programmes as it continues to be a necessary institution in the field of education and training in Guyana.

Modern Technology

These new cars tell you so many things. A voice will say "Door ajar" or "Put on your seat belts". When will they be able to say "Traffic Cop around the corner?"

Profiles



Mrs. Myrtle Dundas

Has the distinction of being the first woman President of the Association. She had previously held the position of Vice President with special responsibilities for Women's Affairs. She organised post literacy classes as well as sessions in ethics for female adolescent entrants to the Police Constabulary.

Myrtle is now a Trustee of the A.E.A.



Mrs. Sylvia Campbell-Alexander

Has been a member of A.E.A. since 1971. She was in charge of A.E.A.'s operations involving indigenous Amerindian skills in particularly straw plaiting and a variety of mats and bags, muchru work in basketry and nibbi furniture manufacturing.

Sylvia was one of A.E.A.'s most industrious workers who exuded enthusiasm in everything that she did for the Association. She considered the Association of next importance to her home, since it gave her an opportunity of displaying to all and sundry that the Amerindian was no whit less capable to contribute to the development of human resources of this country and, ipso facto, the advancement of the nation.

Though now abroad she continues to have an abiding interest in the success and longevity of the Association.

Anniversary Highlights



Our Computer Tutor receiving her bouquet



Verse Speaking by pupils of East Ruimsveldt Primary School.



Cocktails - Canadian High Commissioner Dr. Bowker in conversation with Mr. Harry Ramseroop.



Dance by National School of Dance at Queen's College



Guyana Police Force Steel Band soothes the audience at Q.C.

Profiles



The Rev. Fr. Gilbert Harris

Rural Dean of Georgetown and Vicar of St. Philip's Parish takes charge of the Association's religious observances and contributes significantly to the logistics of conferences, seminars and public meetings of the AEA. The Parish of St. Philip's was awarded a plaque for its long years of contribution to the operations of the Association.



Mr. V. S. Davis

The efforts and activities of the AEA were not confined to Georgetown and the Coast alone. We were ably represented in Essequibo by Mr. V.S. Davis who joined the Association in 1969 as a member of the Suddie Group which was headed by the late Benjamin Scott.

He became Handicraft Tutor and conducted classes at Dartmouth, Queenstown, Suddie, Riverstown and Good Hope on the Essequibo Coast. Was appointed Coordinator for Craft Work in Essequibo. Became a Member of the Board and was awarded the Diploma of Excellence for a job well done..



Prof. Joycelyne Loncke and John Loncke on the Piano & Violin respectively.



The Woodside Choir captivates the audience at Q.C.



No. 68 Graduates exhibit their work



E.A Graduation in New Amsterdam

Profiles



Mr. Santon Lambert

A long-standing assiduous worker in the field of education generally whose influence in the service of Adult Education since 1972, extended from Manchester Corentyne to Canje and the East Bank of the Berbice River.

Has been a member of the Board of Directors for several years and as such initiated numerous operations, feasibility studies in rural and riverain areas in that county to identify the needs and the desires for education and training among the less fortunate inhabitants in these areas.

His activities included mobilising target groups, monitoring tutors and prescribing remedies and, in general, co-ordinating operation in this respect.

He has served on the Executive Board for the past four years and in the fortieth anniversary year was promoted to the status of Vice President in charge of the Berbice county.



The Rev. Carol Oliver

Minister of Ascension Temple of Truth, Lodge has been an active member for over twenty (20) years and takes charge of our devotional exercises. Her experience as a Probation and Welfare Officer including her service among prison inmates has provided her with the experience that has guided AEA in many of its motivating programmes.

Acknowledgement

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Col. David Granger

The Ministry of Education

The Chairman and members of the Board of A.E.A.

Staff Members of A.E.A.

The Canadian High Commission

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