

Washington DC, Embassy of Grenada, February 29, 2012: Grenadians in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia concluded a series of celebratory events to mark the 38th Anniversary of Grenada's Independence under the theme "Breaking All Barriers, Striving for Greater Achievements under One Flag".

The Embassy kicked off the festivities with an Art Exhibition Opening at the Organization of American States on February 7th, showcasing the works of Grenadian born artist, Mr. Eric M. Johnn. The ceremony was attended by the region's Ambassadors to the OAS. Mr. Johnn has dedicated his talent to representing his country's people, life, natural beauty, and culture. The exhibition is now open to the public at the Embassy as part of its *Artist in Residence Program*. In welcoming the diplomatic corps, OAS Secretary General congratulated Grenada on being the first OECS country to gain Independence and on another milestone anniversary in its political development. Grenada's Ambassador to the OAS, Gillian Bristol, remarked that this year's theme for Independence "...encourages us to exchange individualism for solidarity ... and compels in us an optimistic outlook for our collective future".



Feb. 7, 2012. Art Exhibition Opening:
L-R: Eric Johnn, Counsellor Patricia Clarke, Ambassador Bristol, OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza



Feb. 7, 2012. Art Exhibition Opening:
OAS SG Insulza and Amb. Bristol view art by Grenadian Eric Johnn

At a warm, family and fun "Embassy Open House" on February 11th, Grenadians were treated to a traditional cultural experience with typical foods, games and songs –undaunted by a blustery snowstorm. A special children's program educated first and second generation Americans of Grenadian parentage about games played by their peers in Grenada and tested their general knowledge of Grenada. Members of the Grenadian youth group –the GNN-, started by the Embassy in 2009, joined in the fun and games.



Feb. 11, 2012. Embassy Open House:
Grenadian youth with Amb. Bristol



Feb. 11, 2012. Embassy Open House:
Members of the GNN –Grenada Nutmeg Network



Feb. 11, 2012. Embassy Open House: Grenadian families and friends share a lighthearted moment.



Feb. 11, 2012. Embassy Open House: Remembering childhood games - "Doh-si-dohng" with your partner!



Feb. 11, 2012. Embassy Open House: Menu featured typical Grenadian dishes of oil down and pelau.



Feb. 11, 2012. Embassy Open House: Grenadian youth show off their Grenada souvenir prizes won playing "dip".

At the invitation of Grenadian members of the congregation of the Wesleyan National Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, a service was held in thanksgiving and praise on February 12th, presided over by Rev. George Bassey, Sr. The service featured special Independence-related segments including a special sermon by Pastor Dr. Roy Adams who was born and raised in Carriacou, the National Anthem sung by Grenadian Ms. Christie Lewis and a dramatic poem on Grenadian heritage culture composed and performed by Ms. Julie Huggins, also a national of Grenada. Among the special guests in attendance were members of the CARICOM diplomatic corps. The Fellowship continued at a brunch featuring typical Grenadian cuisine and hosted by the Grenadian community.



Feb. 12, 2012. Church Service: Congratulations banner offered a warm welcome.



Feb. 12, 2012. Church Service: L-R: Dr. Roy Adams, Amb. Bristol, Rev. George Bassey Sr., and Embassy Staff Counsellor Patricia Clarke and Ms. Dianne Perrotte



Feb. 12, 2012. Church Service:
Diplomatic corps representatives, Grenadians, and
Congregation worship



Feb. 12, 2012. Church Service:
Ms. Christie Lewis sings Grenada's
National Anthem



Feb. 12, 2012. Community Brunch



Feb. 12, 2012. Community Brunch

Celebrations wrapped up in grand style at the Grenada Cultural and Social Association's annual Independence dinner and dance on February 18th in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. GCSA President Allan Alexander noted that this event also serves as a fundraiser for causes in Grenada, among them the kidney foundation. The event was held under the auspices of Grenada's Ambassador, with special guest NBA player of Grenadian parentage, Etan Thomas and his wife Nichole.



Feb. 18, 2012. GCSA Dinner & Dance:
L-R: Patricia Clarke, Lizda Sawney, Dianne Perrotte,
& GCSA President Allan Alexander



Feb. 18, 2012. GCSA Dinner & Dance:
L-R: Kyron Baptiste, Cherryann Francis, Amb. Bristol,
Patricia Clarke, Nichole and Etan Thomas



Feb. 18, 2012. GCSA Dinner & Dance:
Grenadians United in Virginia President Gus Jones (L)
and friends.



Feb. 18, 2012. GCSA Dinner & Dance

For more information visit:

<http://www.grenadaembassyusa.org/embassy-news/thirty-eighth-anniversary-of-independence-for-grenada/>

http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/radio_detail.asp?FileName=en20120207daya

<http://www.grenadaart.net>