

October 2010

BTSCA Newsletter

P.O. Box 486, Brunswick, ME 04011

www.brunswicktrinidad.org



Dear Members and Friends,

**Join us November 4, 2010 at 7pm
at Curtis Memorial Library in
Brunswick**

for a presentation by film director Juaretsi Saizaboria, on the development of rap and other music forms among the youth in Cuba. She will discuss the making of her film, "East of Havana", and showing various clips of the film.

There will be a brief BTSCA business meeting at 6:30pm prior to the presentation to review the sister city activities and elect a new board of directors.

Summary of events- 2009/2010

It has been a busy year for BTSCA events with the grand opening of **Cuba Week 2010**, **Delegation to Cuba**, the **Peace Fair**, the **Give and Go..... read on!**

Cuba Week 2010!

We enjoyed another successful Cuba Week this April including some old favorites and a few new events. We kicked off the week with a salsa dance and then on Sunday we tried something new with Bowdoin artist in residence, Nestor Gil.

Nestor built 59 white kites (as he learned as a child in Miami) and invited the Brunswick community to help fly them on the Bowdoin fields. While the event was scheduled from 11am-1pm, Nestor's simple white paper kites were being repaired with everything imaginable and launched back into the windy skies by children and adults alike until at least 3pm.

Later in the week the Brunswick community warmly welcomed back the 2010 Cuba delegation as they shared photos, videos and stories of their adventures including

their visits to hospitals and clinics in Trinidad. Continuing in the theme of healthcare,

Frontier Café screened the movie *¡Salud!* and a student and coordinator of the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana gave a fascinating talk about their program and experiences of life in Cuba.

the week went out with a bang as guests of all ages and dancing abilities let loose dancing to live band Grupo Esperanza at the Frontier Café.

Throughout Cuba week many local restaurants served Cuban fare and helped spread the word about our sister city. Thank you all for a successful, energizing Cuba Week! Hope to see you next year.

Delegation 2010

After many difficult months of filing the appropriate forms with our government officials we were finally granted a license to travel to Trinidad in April. This Medical Delegation included 6 travelers: Sheri Taub RN, Elsa Levy RN, Bill Cooney, Abby Holland (translator), Rick Elsaesser DMD & Sue Elsaesser RD. They delivered humanitarian aid in the form of medical supplies to local hospitals and clinics.

The following is Sheri Taub's experience of the trip:

People ask me....."How was your trip to Cuba?"

I pause. I try to find the words...and everything I come up with is inadequate. It was amazing. It was life changing. It was a trip of a lifetime. All true, but inadequate. How do you explain to people that you had to travel for 22 hours to get to a place 90 miles off the coast of Miami? How do you tell people that you really didn't know anyone you traveled with short of the three planning/packing meetings held in the weeks before the trip? And how do you explain that they will now be your friends for life?

How do you tell people what it was like to be separated from those people in an airport and immediately feel fiercely bonded together?

How do you explain the beauty of a country

October 2010

BTSCA Newsletter

P.O. Box 486, Brunswick, ME 04011

www.brunswicktrinidad.org

that we are kept from knowing?

How do you make people understand that the people of Trinidad treated us like family, inviting us into their homes, sharing their coffee with us and showing us their lives?

How do you explain the amazing dancing and the music... and the raw emotion with which the Cuban people played it for us?

How do you explain visiting the clinics and hospitals and seeing how much they don't have.....but the pride with which they show what they do?

How do you explain the emotion of riding through the Bay of Pigs with someone whose father hid in the swamps for two weeks?

How do you...how do you?

How do you make people realize that we are

blessed every day of our lives.....with choices.....something the Cuban people don't have.

Cuba. How do you?

Give & Go

(An annual non-profit fundraising event sponsored by Bowdoin College)

This year's Give & Go sale was again a record breaker. This year the gross intake was \$51,092! After expenses, the sale organizers dispersed \$47,237 to non-profits in our community. This is a real shot in the arm for BTSCA, as I know it is for other organizations. A total of 3,342 hours were worked, resulting in payment of about \$14.13 per volunteer hour. BTSCA had 15 wonderful volunteers who together (with their trucks) worked 59.25 hours, bringing us \$837! This is our largest source of income all year, so we are truly grateful. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to: Marcy and Peter McGuire, Bob Goddard, Sue and Carl Elsaesser, Bill Cooney, Tina Phillips, Lorraine Berté, Deborah Luhrs, Annie Tara, Andrea Jowdry, Johanna Thompson, John Turner, and Len Westra. You are keeping us solvent. We hope that even more of our members will volunteer next year, as we are allowed up to 100 hours of volunteer time.

Not only is it fun, but also it is a great way to get a sneak preview of the amazing items that will be available at the sale. All volunteers are given passes to the first day of the sale, otherwise open only to Bowdoin staff and students. Put it on your calendars for next June!

Peace Fair

Thanks to volunteers Joe Donohue, Susan Weems, Tina Phillips, & Lorraine Berté, BTSCA participated in the Peace Fair on August 7. Our information table helped to spread our message about the value of peaceful, respectful diplomacy as a way to develop sustainable bonds of friendship in the global community in general, and actively with our sister city of Trinidad, Cuba. It was a beautiful, sunny day, lavished with great music, poetry, food, face painting and inspiring conversations. Many thanks to Christine DeTroy for organizing it!

Plants for Peace Sale

Each June for the past 25 years, Jane Donelon has opened her beautiful shade gardens in Brunswick to the public; selling unique perennial plant starts to benefit local non-profit organizations, which include Peaceworks and BTSCA. Those of you who have attended this event will agree her gardens are breathtaking. Following tile and rock paths through natural archways, beautiful foliage and unique flowers peek out around each bend and surprise you. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or completely clueless about the plant world, you can't help but enjoy a walk through Jane's magical garden each June. This year the Plants for Peace Sale donated \$200 to BTSCA, for which we are grateful.

Officer BIOS:

The following individuals are running for Director-At-Large seats for 2 year terms and are new to the Board of Directors for BTSCA

Tatiana Lera:

I was born and raised in Barcelona, Spain. I moved to the US in 98 to improve my English. I moved to Maine 6 years ago. I have been teaching Spanish and French at Brunswick Junior High School. I graduated from the University of Colorado, la Universidad de Barcelona and the University of New England.

October 2010

BTSCA Newsletter

P.O. Box 486, Brunswick, ME 04011

www.brunswicktrinidad.org

The sister city provides me with a connection to the international community and to Latino roots in the area. I will be traveling to Trinidad this year as a liaison for the sister city.

Amy Krawczyk:

I called Portland home for over 15 years and am now living and working in Brunswick. I was educated by the University of Maine system and have held professional posts such as Marketing Director for Portland's Downtown District, Congress Square Events Producer with Maine Arts, and various freelance marketing and planning posts. It was through my employers at Henry and Marty I learned of BTSCA, for which I volunteered public relations and copywriting services for Cuba Week 2010. As with my professional history and personal interests, BTSCA is attractive because of its engaging efforts to promote cultural understanding in lively, creative ways.

Madsy Schneider:

A junior at Brunswick High School and a Spanish student, she has long been interested in learning about Cuba, as well as other Latin cultures. A member of the BHS student government, it is her hope to create a bridge between the high school community and Trinidad, with the aim of educating BHS students about the rich culture and traditions of this area. Besides participating in student government and memorizing irregular Spanish verbs, Madsy also runs cross-country, plays lacrosse, and sings with the chamber choir. She hopes to one day become a surgeon and use her skills to help others in countries with insufficient medical resources.

Margot Knight:

My husband and I moved to Maine in March 2000 and we're delighted to have settled in Brunswick, close to his family's roots. I work at Bates College in the Office of College Advancement (alumni relations and fundraising). It's wonderful to be a member of the Bates community, which is similar to the one at my alma mater, Macalester College, in St. Paul, Minn. I received a B.A. in psychology there, and I completed my coursework for a M.A.L.S. at Georgetown University.

My husband and I are co-chairs of the Bowdoin Host Family Program, and we are hosting a sophomore from Miami, Fla., this year. I was appointed to the Town Council in October 2007 as the Councilor for District 6 and was officially elected for a three-year term that started in January 2008. I am up for re-election this fall.

I was raised in a family that valued making personal connections to learn about people, their traditions and cultures. That's why I believe the BTSCA is important to understanding people as people, separate from politics.

Reflecting on 9 years as president of BTSCA...

Tina L. Phillips

The past 9 years as president of BTSCA have been a gift I will always cherish. I have been fortunate to work with so many wonderful and dedicated people on the board of directors and within our membership over the years. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to facilitate travel for community members to visit Trinidad, and hope that these opportunities multiply. Mostly, I am humbled by the commitment and perseverance of BTSCA members who have managed to hold on to the vision of supporting and embracing the people of Trinidad, our sister city, despite tremendous obstacles.

Recipe:

Ropa Vieja (or shredded beef): translated in Spanish is "old clothes"

Recipe from "Three Guys From Miami Cook Cuban" cookbook (Serves 8)

4 lbs chuck roast

S&P, flour, olive oil and water

1 green pepper, chunked

1 onion, sliced

5 cloves garlic, chopped

2 c. onion, chopped

4 cloves garlic mashed w/1 tsp. Salt

2 c. green pepper, chopped

olive oil for sautéing

4 oz. tomato paste

1 (32 oz) can crushed tomatoes

2 TB ground cumin

1 c. red wine

1 bay leaf

S&P to taste

October 2010

BTSCA Newsletter

P.O. Box 486, Brunswick, ME 04011

www.brunswicktrinidad.org

1. Do not trim excess fat from meat before cooking. Salt and pepper the meat and dust lightly with flour.
2. Brown the meat in oil in a large Dutch oven. Add enough water to surround the meat, but not cover it. Add green pepper, onion and garlic. Simmer covered until meat is fork tender about 2 hours. Add more water as necessary to keep from burning.
3. Remove from heat and cool. Discard the vegetables. Shred meat.
4. In the same pan you cooked the meat in, sauté onions, garlic and green pepper in oil until limp. Add tomato paste, crushed tomatoes, cumin, wine, and bay leaf. Salt and pepper to taste. Finally add the shredded beef. Cover and cook on low for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove bay leaf.
5. Serve with rice.

Book Recommendations:

Carl Elsaesser is a senior at Hampshire College studying Film and Literature. He spent the spring semester 2010 living in Havana. He is currently working on his Division III (Senior Thesis) which will be a film focused on Magical Realist theoretical terms.

Whether it is revealing the magical in the everyday, searching for the magical hidden from view or injecting magic into realist narratives, Magical Realism, in its best use, gives voice to the voiceless, marginalized and oppressed identities. From this, it is no great leap to see how it is associated with Latin America and how it's roots can be found in Cuba, whose history, both specific and broad, involve violent revolution and upheaval, leaving entire groups of people left to the margins of history. With that being said, here is a list of Cuban authors (and my preferred novels or collection of short stories) who invoke Magical Realism and critique a history that has left them and their subjects behind.

Alejo Carpentier: "The Kingdom of This World"

Rienaldo Arenas: "Mona and Other Tales"

Guillermo Cabrera Infante: "Three

Trapped Tigers"

Virgilio Pinera: "Cold Stories"

Jose Lezama Lima: his short stories or "Paradiso"

Future Plans for BTSCA

Tatiana will be traveling to Cuba on behalf of BTSCA to meet our counterparts and explore the possibilities for future exchanges between our communities.

Survey

Would you be willing to help us during the year? On occasion we need volunteers to help us with various events. Please mark the ways in which you might help and contact Genie Wheelwright at gwheelwright@brunswicktrinidad.org. Thank you!

_____ Publicity (writing press releases, contacting media outlets, designing flyers, putting up posters)

_____ Give and Go sale (May and June)

_____ Updating and maintaining our website

_____ Providing refreshments for events

_____ Setting up and taking down at events

_____ Manning tables at events