

September 2009

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Dear Members and Friends,

All are welcome to our **Annual Meeting 2009**
Oct. 24, Sat. 10:00 am
in the Morrell Room at
Curtis Memorial Library

Presentation: "***Performing the Revolution***" by **Barry Jackson**. We invite all of you to listen to the experiences of Barry Jackson, Director of Modern Languages at Rivier College in New Hampshire, discuss his work over the past 5 years documenting the theater style in the communities of Manicaragua and Cumanayagua, Cuba. Having traveled to Cuba recently, he will also report on some of the effects of the recent global economic downturn in rural communities, and show a video of the Cuban theater group he works with. His presentation will begin after a brief BTSCA overview and election of BTSCA board of directors.

Summary of events-2008/2009

It has been a busy year for BTSCA events with the grand opening of the ***Cuba Week 09, Dance of Two Cultures Mural***, the ***Mural Garden***, the ***Give and Go***

BTSCA Newsletter

P.O. Box 486, Brunswick, ME 04011

Fundraiser, Peace Fair, the Pastors for Peace Caravan, a shipment of ***books for the Trinidad library***, our table at the ***Family Arts Festival in Brunswick***, and participation in the Bowdoin ***Common Good Day***. Read on to find out more about these events...

Cuba Week 2009!

Cuba week 2009 was a great success. From March 27th-April 5th various restaurants in Brunswick, Bowdoin College and the Chewonki Foundation dining halls featured Cuban specialties in honor of our sister city connection. Our keynote speaker this year was Isaac Saney, from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. His talk was entitled, "Race, Racism, and Revolution: Lessons from Cuba," and it focused heavily on Black history in Cuba and briefly on how that affects the current situation in Cuba. Also during the week we showed the film *Yank Tanks*, a documentary about American cars in Cuba. On Saturday morning we featured Cuban cartoons at the Brunswick Library for the first time and topped off the week with the salsa dance at Brunswick High School in the evening featuring the band *Primo Cubano*. *Frontier Café* showed the film *Ché* throughout Cuba week as well. Thanks to all those in the community who joined in this year's Cuba week events!

New Website

Thanks to Ian Yaffe we have a brand new look. Anyone familiar with WordPress who'd be willing to provide occasional tech support please contact us via the website.
www.brunswicktrinidad.org

Give & Go

BTSCA again participated in the Bowdoin College Give and Go sale, held this year in Ft. Andross. Volunteers helped gather, sort and organize many truckloads of furniture, fans, food and fashions left behind by Bowdoin students. The sale grossed \$44,233 over two days in June. All proceeds (\$38,446. after expenses) were divided among participating non-profits in accord with the number of hours their volunteers worked. BTSCA members, in 35 hours, earned \$520.20 for our coffers. Thank you!

Next year we hope to fill our 100-hour quota completely. It's fun, it's easy, volunteers are admitted into the pre-sale, and this really helps BTSCA get funds for humanitarian aid for Cuba. Look for details and our call for volunteers next spring.

Dance of Two Cultures Mural & Mural Garden

Visitors to the Mural are frequently seen taking photos and admiring the wonderful work of

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Christopher Cart. This summer we planted 8 Rosa rugosas in the garden area. It looks terrific!

Pastors for Peace 20th Friendship Caravan

BTSCA participated again this year, along with many volunteers and organizations across Maine, in collecting humanitarian aid for the PFP caravan. At a send-off for the caravan on July 5, many volunteers gathered to load the vehicles with aid and complete the boxing and labeling of items. The Caravan arrived safely in Cuba at the end of July, delivering a total of 132 tons of aid to the people of Cuba. I would like to thank Let Cuba Live members for the incredibly hard work of organizing this event. I would also like to thank Katharine Watson for the use of her garage to collect materials and the BTSCA volunteers for dedicating a precious summer day towards this greatly appreciated effort.

Peace Fair

Thanks to volunteers Adelaide Guernelli, Susan Weems, Bill & Jill Cooney, Tina Phillips & Ben Riggleman, BTSCA participated in the Peace Fair on August 6. 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!

Books for Trinidad Library

In June, through the kindness and generosity of BTSCA member John Turner, we sent another box of Spanish literature books to the Biblioteca Gustavo Izquierdo. This is one of the most precious gifts we can send to our friends in Trinidad. Thank you, John! If you have any adult or children's books in Spanish, dictionaries, or current medical texts, we are still collecting books! Please contact Tina at tphillips@brunswicktrinidad.org

License To Travel

We are applying for a license to travel to Trinidad, Cuba in March of 2010. Only 6 travelers, if approved, will be able to go. The trip's focus will be to deliver humanitarian aid. If you would like to join us on a people to people cultural exchange trip to Trinidad in the future contact tphillips@brunswicktrinidad.org to get on our waiting list.

***Book Review:* Walking to Guantánamo**

By Richard Fleming
Richard Fleming, a well-traveled sound recordist for documentary films, decided to leave his loving girlfriend and comfortable Manhattan life to walk across Cuba. He had no real mission, but the idea had been nagging him for some time and he couldn't shake it. With his binoculars and camera, this "rabid birdwatcher" set off to see "the real Cuba." This book is the story of his journey. It is insightful, unpretentious, at times hilarious, and always delightful. Fleming's experiences in our sister city, Trinidad, trying to buy a functional bicycle, are a riotous glimpse into Cuban life and its frustrations. You will thoroughly enjoy this book.

Recipe for Mojitos

3 cups (packed) fresh mint leaves
9 tablespoons sugar
1 1/2 cups light rum
1/2 cup fresh lime juice
6 cups club soda
6 cups crushed ice
6 lime wedges

Place mint leaves in a bowl. Add sugar. Mash with wooden spoon. Add rum and lime juice and stir until sugar dissolves. Put above ingredients in pitcher, and add club soda. Fill 6 glasses with 1 cup ice. Pour mojito over and garnish each glass with 1 mint leaf and 1 lime wedge.
Serves 6