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PARAISO JR.-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

RAINBOW CITY HIGH SCHOOL



1956-1977



1956-1977

LA BOCA OCCUPATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Read about La Boca Occupational High School: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00017/14j?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



1946-1956

Today's Quote

“Instruction ends in the schoolroom, but education ends only with life.”

Frederick W. Robertson

NEWS BRIEFS AND INFORMATION ITEMS



COVID-19 UPDATES

El Ministerio de Salud (MINSa) informa que del **9 de marzo 2020** (el primer caso del virus en Panamá) hasta el **14 de octubre de 2021**, se han acumulado un total de **469,796** contagiados, de los cuales **460,072** se han recuperado y **7,284** han muerto. Hay **1** defunción y **227** casos nuevos del día y **2,440** los casos activos al día de hoy <https://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/panama-registra-una-defuncion-covid-19-las-ultimas-horas-n5560551>

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION WITH THIS SPECIAL EDITION ON OUR GRADUATION CLASSES!

This special edition on our Graduation Classes from La Boca Occupational High School, Paraíso Junior-Senior High School and Rainbow City High School is definitely a *“dream-come-true”* for me. I know that the preparation for each class allowed many of you to reunite, get together, meet on Zoom, talk on the telephone, search for photographs and exchange emails and WhatsApp messages more than usual. I do feel that it was worth the sacrifice. I trust that you will enjoy this edition of **30 CLASSES** as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. I can only say a big THANK YOU to all of you who cooperated in making this dream come true and keeping our flame alive! **I would also like to express sincere appreciation to the Panama Canal Museum Collection at the University of Florida and the Digital Library of the Caribbean for the digital collection of our Yearbooks (without which, this project would have been much more difficult).** The Yearbook for each class is shared at the beginning of their report.

CLG (Carm)

FROM OUR E-MAILBOX: “Thanks to all those of you who have written.” **CLG (Carm)**



Great! Great article!!!! A must read for all! CRASH, REBOOT & REPRIORITIZE by Terence H. Biggs, Jr. (October 1 edition). **Walter St. Jones (Florida)**

Hi Carmela: Thank you for all the time you and Alonso put in to produce, and give us the CyberNews!! Regards, **Wanda George (Panama)**

Good day Carm: Thank you for the wonderful articles. I pray that the Lord will comfort the families and friends of the dearly departed. **Diana Baker (Texas)**

Carmela: Thank you for all you do to keep our Canal Zone and Panamanian community connected. You are the best. **Robert Baptiste (Florida)**

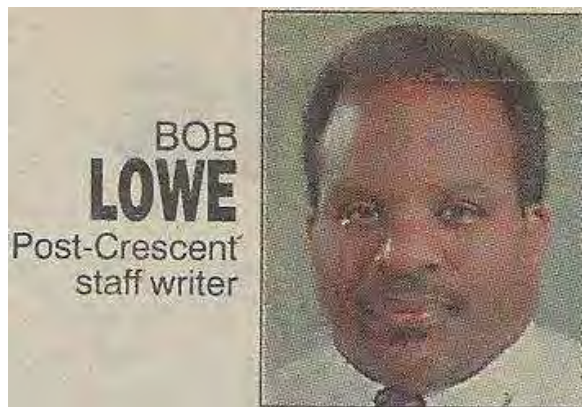
THIS SPECIAL EDITION IS IN MEMORY OF BOB LOWE

Editor's Note: This special edition of the *Panama Cyberspace News* is in loving memory of my beloved brother **Roberto "Bob" Lowe**, who departed this life on May 18, 2017 and was laid to rest on June 2, 2017 at Earlham Cemetery in Richmond, Indiana. Bob was a member of the graduating Class of 1966 Paraíso High School and he retired as a journalist reporter/staff writer for *The Post Crescent* Newspaper in Appleton, Wisconsin. Many of you are not aware that it was Bob who gave me the nickname "**Carm**" many years ago and that he served as my mentor when I began the publication of the *Panama Cyberspace News* 20 years ago. He was my inspiration to go into journalism and with his expertise in the field of journalism; he would guide me along and provide me with several journalism tips for enhancing the publication. Below are a few photographs of Roberto Enrique Lowe.

CLG (Carm)



<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00018/80j?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/postcrescent/name/roberto-lowe-obituary?pid=185658155>

REPRESENTING CLASSES OF THE 40s LA BOCA OCCUPATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

LA BOCA ALUMNI CHORUS



Commencement of La Boca Branch of the Junior College, 1956

Musical Extravaganza at Lincoln Center, New York 1975

Director Emily Butcher is on the far right of both photographs.

The **La Boca Alumni Chorus** was organized in 1948 by the school's music director, **Emily Butcher**, and under the sponsorship of **Helen C. Baker**, then in charge of school music. At the time, it was the only adult singing group in the Canal Zone. The choral group sang whenever there were festivities in the Canal Zone: They sang at commencement exercises, Easter Sunrise Services, Christmastime services, the inauguration ceremony for Governor Seybold in 1952, at the Goethals Memorial Celebration in 1954, the *Hanging of the Greens Ceremony* at the Balboa YMCA, concerts at the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) in Balboa, the National Theater in Panama City, at a number of military bases, benefit concerts, at several churches and visiting hospitals to sing to patients, among others. Members of this musical group came from different Canal Zone townsites, such as Red Tank, La Boca, Gatun and Silver City on the Atlantic side. They rehearsed in the study hall of La Boca High School. Miss Butcher, who is a graduate of La Boca Normal Training School and holds a Master's Degree from Columbia University, was the first and only director. She directed with the expert air of experience and their performance was always of the most distinctive quality. Miss Butcher recalls that the rehearsals were fun, although there were times when much work was crowded into one evening when the date of a public performance was drawing near. In addition to classic, secular, and religious renditions, their repertoire included Caribbean songs as well as Panamanian folklore. They sang either a Capella or with an accompaniment by pianist **Wilma Butcher**. They recorded an album of Christmas music in 1981, the same year of their final performance.

The following are the choristers throughout the years (alphabetical order by first names). *Alive

Alden G. Cockburn
Carlos Austin
Carlyle Edghill
Cecil Carter
Cleophus Williams
Clinton Peters
Constancia Bell
Cynthia Wilson
Daisy Stone
Delroy Burke*
Doris Cox
Doris Fawcett
Doris Greene
Dorothy Brooks
Dorothy Powell
Earl Braithwaite
Edna Beckles
Eleanore Bovell

Frank Russell*
Franklin Spencer
Fred Howell
Fred Wason
Gilbert Burrows
Hilary Clarke
Hugh Adams
Hyacinta Tait*
Icilyn Smythe
Ines Hurley
Inez Howell
Irma Henry
Joycelyn Gooden*
Lancelot Morrison
Lilybelle Fawcett
Lorna Williams
Maizie Lennan
Mary Callender

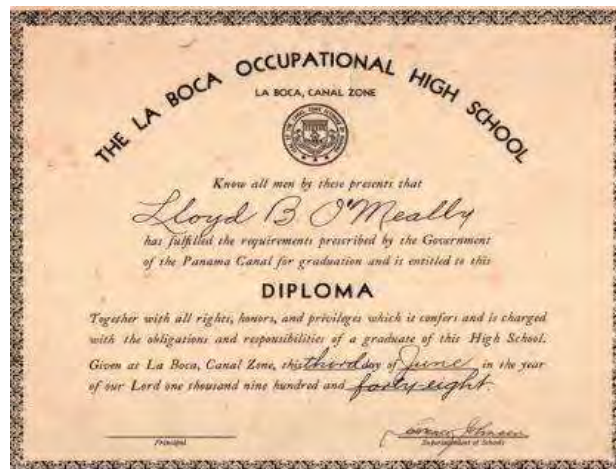
Miriam Riney
Nora Johnson*
Norma Lee
Olga Griffith
Olive Joseph
Pearl Simon
Robert Joseph
Robert King*
Ruby Carter
Ruth Mae Springer*
Stanley Hall
Sybil Henry
Thelma Lee
Vivian Hall*
Winston Faulkner
Zelma Lee
Emily Butcher, director*

Information from Emily Butcher, Nora Johnson and *The Panama Canal Review* dated June 1, 1956

CLASS OF 1948 LA BOCA OCCUPATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



In 1945 a test was given to all 9th grade students in Canal Zone Colored (Silver Roll) Junior High Schools. Thirty two were selected and offered the opportunity attend the La Boca Normal Training School for four years and become teachers. At the end of the freshman year, the Schools Division reclassified our class as high school and it became the La Boca Occupational High School. The curriculum now included subjects to prepare us for jobs after graduation. We were the class of 1948. In May, 1948 the Schools Division offered us the option of continuing to Normal School and become teachers. As a result, many of our classmates continued as dedicated educators here and in the U.S. Some, after retiring from teaching, became priests in their communities. Elton Carter, Byron McDougall, Roy Gooding and others were among those. Saturnin Mauge was a labor union organizer. Those unions brought changes to the payroll system in the Canal Zone. Gold and Silver rolls ended and equal pay became the norm. Irmina and I went on to other careers. Irmina as a legal secretary. I became a part of the radio and television broadcasting industry and participated in the installation and management of the first TV station in Panama. Victor Noble merits special mention. He was instrumental in keeping us up to date on classmates and activities. After graduating as a teacher, he enlisted in the US army, became an officer and taught mathematics In later years he was a well-known realtor in California and do it all for classmates of several promotions. In 1987 Vic Noble and others organized our last meeting: A Reunion Week in Los Angeles, California and Las Vegas, Nevada **(photo)**



Submitted by Irmina Hudson and Lloyd O'Meally

CLASS OF 1950 LA BOCA OCCUPATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00023/1j?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



Following graduation from the Class of 1950 La Boca Occupational High School, I was hired at the Tivoli



Guest House as a timekeeper. Because of the Panama Hotel being built I left the Tivoli Hotel and went to work as a timekeeper and teletype operator at the Gatun Locks on the Atlantic side. In October of 1955 I traveled to Costa Rica and married **Marlena Stewart (R.I.P.)**. In 1957, I was transferred to the Pacific Locks where I worked at Miraflores and Pedro Miguel as a timekeeper for a short period. I later left there and worked at The Motor Transportation Division as a school bus driver and chauffeur. A few years later I returned to the Miraflores Locks as a timekeeper. I was later hired with the Canal Protection Division as a supervisor and retired in

1981. After retiring I came to the United States of America. I then worked at The Westminster Canterbury in Virginia Beach for 15 years. Due To my wife's illness I resigned. While at home I did religious counseling and published religious devotional articles. **Throughout the years I have lost contact with my classmates, therefore, I am not aware of any reunions that i could write about.** I have been very involved in supporting and sponsoring institutions and programs such as the St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, Virginia Homeless Shelter, Virginia Police Department, Union Mission Membership for the Homeless and the Disabled Veterans of America. Inspired by Charles Stanley and L.B. Cowan, i spread the word by writing daily devotions. I served as Financial Administrator (1995-2005) to the Friendship Baptist Church in Virginia, where I am a member.



Submitted by Benjamin Jemmott

CLASS OF 1954 LA BOCA OCCUPATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

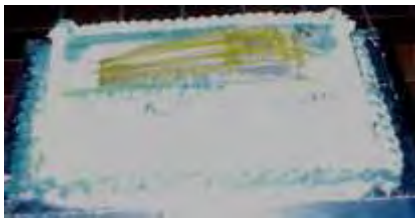
Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00024/1j?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



Class Members at the Decameron Beach Resort



Ellis Fawcett, Clarence Gordon, Frank Castles, Janet Stanford, Carlos Payne and Beatrice Thorne
Donation to the Latin American Scholarship Committee



Our Anniversary Cake had a photograph of our school building and it was the centerpiece at our reunion dinner at Flag Restaurant, Amador.

The Class of 1954 La Boca Occupational High School celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a Program-Dinner-Dance at the Palacio Salon Imperial Lung Fung on Saturday, July 6, 1974 in Panama City. This celebration was in honor of **Clara Wattley de Paige**, a former Canal Zone Latin American school teacher and a former community organizer and social worker, who at the time was residing in the United States and returned to Panama for the occasion. Music was provided by Willie Moro Orchestra. **The Class of 1954 made a donation to the Latin American Scholarship Committee.**



The La Boca Occupational High School Class of 1954 celebrated their 50th Golden Anniversary with a series of activities from August 16-23, 2004 as follows:

- Trip to Decameron Beach Resort
- Bus Tour to include visit to Gamboa Rainforest Resort, Miraflores Locks and Albrook Mall
- Lunch at the Buccaneers' Restaurant in Amador
- Dinner and *Bailes Típicos* Folkloric Show at *Las Tinajas* Restaurant
- We attended SAMAAP's Dinner Dance at the Caesar Park Hotel and was recognized.
- Our group reunion Dinner Dance was held at the Flag Restaurant in Amador on Saturday
- On Sunday morning we attended the worship service at the Rio Abajo Methodist Church, where we were recognized as special guests. We donated the altar flowers. Following the service we met for brunch at the Caesar Park Hotel.
- A farewell reception was held at the Elks Lodge in Rio Abajo.

Club El Pacifico, La Boca Occupational High School Alumni Association in New York City held its annual Dinner Dance and in keeping with the tradition of honoring each class on their 50th Anniversary, our class was honored that year.



Submitted by Clarence Gordon

CLASS OF 1955 LA BOCA OCCUPATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00017?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

YEARBOOK DEDICATED TO ROBERT T. ELLIS



The members of the Student Association of La Boca Occupational High School dedicated their 1955 Yearbook to their Vice Principal (former English teacher) **Robert T. Ellis**, on the eve of his retirement. They shared the following: *"We sincerely hope that the moments he has shared with us may be a source of happy memories."*



50th Anniversary Reunion in Panama, 2005

Seated: Mary Gustave (RIP), Jean Allen, Silvia Jones (RIP), Margarita Johnson and Dorothy Dandrade
Standing: John Scantlebury (RIP), Jacinta Medford, Marilyn Romero, Richard Holder (RIP), Sybil Thomas, Carmen Welsh, Rudolph Mitchell and Ellen Atherton

SOME MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS WHO ARE ALIVE TODAY:

(In alphabetical order by first names)

Alfred Gibbs	Harold Campbell	Miriam Sobers
Byron Eastman	Herrington Bryce	Myrtle Evans
Carmen Welsh	Jacinta Medford	Norman Harris
Carlota Gooden*	Jean Allen	Orlando Scott
Clarence Small	Jean Farquharson	Rosa Prince
Dorothy Dandrade	Jerry Goddard	Rudolph Mitchell
Ellen Atherton	Joselyn Thompson	Shirley Layne
Elmina Smith	Laura Maner	Sybil Thomas
Enid Sullivan	Leland Truick	Thelma Stevenson
Eric Sainten	Lionel Harris	Theophilus Henry
Ethlyn Powell	Margarita Johnson	Victor de Portege
Glendora Woods	Marilyn Romero	Violet Walters

*Carlota Gooden – Sprinter and the first woman to represent Panama at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, Italy: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlota_Gooden

Our Class of 1955 La Boca Occupational High School was the last class graduating with an English curriculum.

Submitted by Sybil Thomas Josiah

CLASS OF 1956 RAINBOW CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00019279/00008/1j>

The name Silver City High School was changed to Rainbow City High School in 1954

Our Ciudad Arco Iris (Rainbow City) *Clase de Graduandos* of February 29, 1956 was the first class converted to a full Spanish curriculum, replacing English starting the school year of 1955. Of the 86 graduates just about half are still alive. Several of our Alumnus gained respectable Civil Servant employment, e.g.. Administrators, Firefighters, Police Officers, etc. with the Panama Canal Zone Administration; whereas many more emigrated to the U.S., under College Scholarships, Minor League Baseball Contracts. Others were drafted into the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, etc. upon joining family. For the most part, many earned College Degrees; became Bankers, University Professors, Hospital Administrators, Nurses, High-Tech Professionals, Social Workers, Maritime Industry Assistant, Ship Operations Managers. New York Subway Motormen. As an extension many became Profoundly, Civically, Religiously, Socially, Politically involved enriching the stature of Family, Community, City, participating in Church Construction, Kiwanis, Lions Club, Sports Associations, Boy & Girl Scouts, Educating & Mentoring inner city & suburban youth in Rites of Passage Organizations.

Because we are so widely spread out across the world it has not been convenient for us to congregate frequently for Class Reunions, However, many of our peers, over the past 65 years do frequently keep in touch via the Electronic media, and other Social events. Our first, 20th Anniversary Reunion gala, in February 1976 when we honored several of our Educators was held at the Hotel Washington, Colon Panama, followed by Beach Parties at Playa Langosta, and other social functions.

Our second and last reunion was held in February 2006 was our 50th Anniversary. We coopted with the fabulous Ciudad Arco Iris Class of 1962 to honor all of our surviving Educators in Panama City with an illustrious Gala at the Hotel Marriott, complimented by a Historic Journal which publication was spearheaded by the Class of 1962, (to name just a few: **Oswald Baptist, Claretta Frederick-Prescott, Earl Watson, Jacquie King, Bernadette Lewis, Canute Cockburn, Joselyn Lynch (R.I.P.), Bernadette Lewis, Rev. Leslie Anderson, etc.**). We also paid tribute to our Angelic Ancestors who constructed the Panama Canal (at mind-boggling sacrifices) at a Rite held at the Shrine erected in their Memory at the Fort Amador Causeway; visited our old Schools, and picnicked.

The following are a few photographs from our reunions.



Submitted by Euclid "Cy" Jordan

CLASS OF 1957 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Graduation, February 2007

<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00028?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

The Paraíso High School Class of 1957 celebrated their Golden Anniversary in February, 2007 in conjunction with the Rainbow City High School. The publication prepared for this occasion was dedicated to Gloria Brooks Townsend in recognition of the great effort she made in planning their 50th anniversary: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00028/5j?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks> Gloria passed in May, 2006.



Golden Anniversary Celebration at the Sheraton Hotel February 2007

We were the first graduates of the now extinct Paraíso High School and the then created Latin American Schools System, characterized by teaching predominantly in the Spanish language. After graduation, some classmates traveled to the United States to continue studies, many of which made that country their permanent residence. Of these we can mention **Mary Ashley, Hilma Powell, Raymond Oakley, Beverly Best, Judith Stewart, Selma Grant, Cedric Bailey, Eugene Johnson, Carlos Brathwaite, Guillermo Payne, Bertram Lindsay**...Others joined the military services, some remaining attached until retirement. Over the years, many have passed on, the most recent being **Henry A. Clark**. I became a physician, dedicating my professional life to research in medical mycology with publication of my findings, teaching medical microbiology in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Panama, and I served as consultant to the *Seguro Social* Hospital, and did private practice at the San Fernando Clinic.

The photographs below are taken from our 1957 yearbook:



Submitted by Marion Clarke Martin, M.D.

CLASS OF 1958 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00025?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

Paraíso High School Class of 1958 has celebrated 63 years since graduation.

Almost immediately after graduating many of the class members started to emigrate to different areas of the world. Some have stayed in those areas permanently. Others have returned to Panama, and others have moved to the mainland USA. Members began to further their higher education, some joined the US military service and others gained employment in the private or public sector. Families began to flourish.

Many educational achievements were recognized and awarded. On several occasions The U.S. Congress recognized and presented Distinguished Awards to individual members. Curriculum was developed which included part of the Panamanian Cultural Heritage, including learning Spanish, appreciation of Panama’s typical clothing, music and dances, as well as preparing and tasting typical Panamanian cuisine.

Besides excellent teachers there have been superior administrators showing their leadership skills at all educational levels. Many members serving in the U.S. Military have received special acknowledgements and promotions in rank. In addition, members of the class have received recognition for their talent and ability in the entertainment and sports world. Many members working in the private and public sectors have also received acknowledgements and awards for the unique quality of their work; some becoming top executives in their companies. Some members have owned their private business in the U S as well as in Panama. Members have always been involved in charitable work.

Classmate the late **Cecil Inniss** received a heart transplant that lasted for 30 years which caused amazement and astonishment in the medical field all over the world:



The Class of “58” has been very active throughout these 63 years. There have been several class reunions including the 50th Anniversary. This Class has always stayed in touch with each other especially in this electronic age. .

THIS IS THE UNIQUE PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1958!

THE FOLOWING ARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME OF OUR SURVIVING CLASS MEMBERS:



Roberto Martinez



Phil Roland



Marva McDonald



Gloria Goddard



Alfred Titus



Robert Holnes



Carlos Garnett



Joyce Jordan



Buddy Walker



Marie Davis Clark



Sid Taylor

Submitted by Roberto Martinez and Marie Davis Clark

CLASS OF 1959 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00021?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

Photographs of our 50th Anniversary Reunion and other activities:



We 59ers was the 3rd class to graduate from the "barn" as our school building was affectionately known. The 1959 PHS class is comprised of boys and girls born in the years 1939 and 1940 who attended Elementary and Jr. High Schools in the towns of La Boca, Red Tank, Paraíso and Santa Cruz (Gamboa) and experienced dramatic changes at critical junctures of our schooling odyssey in the Panama Canal Zone from kindergarten through graduation from the "Escuela Secundaria de Paraíso" (PHS).

Upon graduating from PHS February 1959, several of our classmates immediately immigrated to the USA, principally to New York City, seeking higher education and economic opportunities. Thereafter, starting in the early 1960s many more PHS 59ers immigrated to the NYC area and other states in the USA. The NY area 59ers began gathering informally to provide fellowship and support to each other. With the larger number of 59ers domiciled in New York, we started having formal "Class Meetings" at the home of classmate, Mabel Wilson Walker (RIP) where we planned and executed fund raising activities and some major outing such as a weekend gathering at Mt. Airy Lodge, Pocono Mountain, Pennsylvania and a seven days cruise on Carnival Lines. In the early 1970 era we started discussions on celebrating our 20th anniversary graduation from PHS. Accordingly, we planned and executed our first celebratory graduation on February 24, 1979 at the Le Cordon Bleu Catering Hall, Woodhaven, New York. We had a cadre of over 30 classmates in attendance and with their guests and supporters we had 75-100 persons in attendance. Wow what a memorable event that was. We provided each classmate a gift of a replica of the "NYC Transit Authority token" which at that time was valued at fifteen cents. That same token- which is no longer in use- cost about \$2.75 in 2021.

In the planning and execution of the 20th Anniversary celebration we agreed that the 59ers will celebrate their PHS anniversary every five years thereafter through its 50th anniversary in Panama. We are proud to report that we have met that commitment with five year celebrations in Panama culminating in a dinner dance at venues such as the Hotel Soloy, Hotel El Panama and the Caesars Park Hotel.

Our 50th Golden Graduation Anniversary Celebration was held on February 21, 2009 at the Hotel InterContinental Miramar which was planned and executed as a combined joint celebration of the Paraíso and Rainbow City High Schools. We had over 125 classmates from both schools in attendance and the total attendance exceeded 500 persons. The event was a sit-down waiter-served dinner which was exceptionally well planned and executed. We 59ers are proud of our legacy as agents of change and the torch bearers to raising the barriers and standards for class participation in all our endeavors.

Submitted by Elvarado Baptiste, Ruthwin Samuels. Eugene Wilson and Stevens Garnett

CLASS OF 1959 RAINBOW CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://www.dloc.com/AA00019279/00010/1j?search=apex>



Twenty years ago, Rainbow City High School Class of 1959 founded *The Panamanian Retirees' Breakfast Club*. Members of our class gather at a local Brooklyn, New York eatery every Wednesday for breakfast. After breakfast we converse on news from Panama and locally, we also are able to communicate with each by means of an internet chat room which was created by one of our members.

Subsequently, we opened our membership to our school alma mater and the Panamanian community. We were all retired and wanted a platform to recall on our school days, culture, and information that affected our family and us. The few female's members of our class who resides in the metropolitan area support the group by occasionally attending breakfast and other club sponsor events.

We sponsor social activities to include family and friends such as private dinners, bus-rids, picnics, dances, holiday celebrations and house barbeques.

In 1984 we held our 25th Class Anniversary in Panama. Throughout the years we have done several fund raisers to support specific causes. In 2014, year of the Panama Canal Centennial the group provided funds to the Editor of the *Panama Cyberspace News* towards the selection of candidates and distribution of scholarships. Scholarships were also giving to members of our community in the U.S..

Also, we have made public collections of items for those in need, and natural disaster relief in support of families back home and in the Caribbean. We routinely ship essential goods to assist efforts of schools, churches, senior home establishments to the provinces of Boca del Toro, Colon, and Panama.

In New York, we give support to several organizations such as:

- The Panama Canal International Alumni Association
- Sociedad & Hermandad Internacional del Chorrillo, Inc.
- The Carlito's Wish Foundation

All of our activities have been suspended due to the present pandemic and social distancing restrictions in public places.

Members profile can be view on link to our journal which was published in 2014:

<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015016/00025>

Submitted by Daniel McFarlane and Joseph Drew

CLASS OF 1960 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00001?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

The predominant attribute that aptly describes The 1960 Paraíso High School Graduating Class is: "INNOVATIVE". One of our most memorable achievements as a class was the initiating of the first Paraíso High School Queen contest. With coaching from one of our favorite teachers, Mola Alphonse, the coronation of **Adela Richards** was a memorable gala. After graduating and moving on to face our varied experiences, class members maintained close ties by organizing monthly lunch gatherings which those living abroad could count on attending during their return visits. Regular class reunions also helped in forging their unique bond. As the first class to begin High School in the 9th grade, we spent more high school years together than previous classes. We extend a heartfelt R.I.P. to those who have gone ahead and a rousing "WAAPIN" to those enjoying their Golden Years.

- Following our 50th Class Reunion in 2012, we donated to various charities and to our less fortunate class members.
- Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we met once a month at various restaurants for lunch. We will resume our monthly meetings when it is safe to do so.
- We have lost quite a few members to Covid-19

BELOW ARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT WE HAVE SPONSORED:



Submitted by Diana Nurse and Carlos Alleyne

CLASS OF 1961 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00002?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

Who would have believed that this year (2021) marks the 60th Anniversary of our high school graduation from Paraíso High School, Paraíso, Canal Zone! My, how the years have flown! On January 31, 1961, all of us graduates sang with joyful hearts to our Alma Mater:

“Con voces llenas de sentimiento, te cantamos la despedida. Pero en nuestros pensamientos siempre estarás: Alma Mater querida. Por tus puertas hoy pasamos, tal vez para no volver. Pero a ti las gracias damos, por cumplir con tu deber. Orgullosa has de estar, de tus hijos que se van. Pues a ti te han de mostrar, que la gloria alcanzaran.”

Letras: Reinaldo Pérez

Arreglo Musical: Gilberto Pérez



We all remember with fondness our yearbook.

Following graduation, some of us remained in Panama, some went into the U.S. Military, and still others relocated to the United States to remain, or to work and then return to Panama. Several of us furthered our education. Families grew and flourished. Careers were developed. Many of us travelled around the world. Retirement was embraced. Sadly, many passed away much too soon. Those of us who have had the blessings of life and health are now in the 78-79 age group.

Because pictures are worth a thousand words, below is a collection of photos taken of our graduating class over the years. A really old photo from the early years while we were still in high school:



Our Class of '61 has had several gatherings and small reunions. For example, in 2013, several of us enjoyed each other's company on a cruise. This event was to celebrate many of us turning 70 that year.

Photos below:

Again, in 2017, a few of us got together in New York. Photos below



By far, our greatest memory was our 50th High School Reunion, held July 11-14, 2011 in Panama. Autographing again each other's yearbook after 50 years was a highlight! So many photos were taken during the reunion. Samplings of these photos are below:



Those of us who are still blessed with life, want to wish each other (as well as other graduating classes from Paraíso High School), peace, joy, health, and prosperity.

Submitted by Delfina Ashley-Baisden, Ph.D.

CLASS OF 1962 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00016?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

Our class has had several reunions since graduating from Paraíso High School in 1962: Our first reunion was held in 1977 at the Interchina Restaurant in Panama City.

In 1987 we celebrated our 25th Anniversary at Antun's, in Queens Village, New York.

Our 30th reunion was held at Fernwood Resort Country Club, Bushkill, Pennsylvania (The Poconos). We also had a 50th Birthday Celebration at Glen Chateau, Brooklyn, New York and we subsequently went on two cruises **(photos at right)**



Our Golden Anniversary Dinner Dance was held at El Panama Hotel in Panama City **(photo below):**



It is sad to say that we have lost almost one-third of our class since graduation, but the remainder of classmates with whom we have had some contact are enjoying retirement, grandchildren, great-grands, new hobbies and developed many other interests as we hobble around with walkers, crutches and canes. Two recent reports of classmate activity include when Myrna Diaz and Cynthia Lowe flew to Salt Lake City, UT to visit another classmate. Roberta Dove, who had been living there for almost five years, had been having health challenges. As soon as the Pandemic allowed them, they traveled and visited with Bertie where they spent a wonderful three days. Myrna and Cynthia also had the opportunity to visit a new city, Recently Myrna Diaz travelled to Clarksville, Tennessee to support Dorna Thomas Inniss on the passing of her son-in-law, husband of her only daughter. They got together with Daisy Pickett, who also lives in Clarksville, and was very supportive during that time **(above photo)**.



Submitted by Cynthia Lowe, Myrna Diaz, Emerson Cooper and Daisy Pickett

CLASS OF 1963 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00027?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963 - UNITED

Web site: <https://www.phs63web.org/>

50th Anniversary Class Reunion: <https://youtu.be/Ftl3I3Q4ipl>



Kucikas Cabins, Chiriquí



Charity Work



New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

The PHS Class of '63 has been very active over the years in various activities to keep our Class moving and growing graciously in unity, while celebrating our friendship and remembering our joy filled years while in high school. These 58 years since our graduation are full of lovely memories and God given opportunities to support each other and even to bless many others in need. Primarily, each year for our anniversary we get together to thank the Lord for His many mercies, grace and blessings. On that given Sunday we visit the place of worship of a class member, followed by a thanksgiving brunch with family and friends at one of the local hotels. We have celebrated numerous reunions and get-togethers in different formats, for example: Bible studies, programs honoring our former teachers, local excursions and visits to provinces here in Panama, trips to several countries and even on cruises. For these activities we love to invite our families, friends and acquaintances to join us. When we travel our mornings begin with devotionals and we even organized formal gatherings. To mention a few trips: Cuba (2010), Montego Bay, Jamaica (2015) – All White Attire Dinner and a Caribbean-Panamanian dinner; local trips to Volcan, Chiriqui staying at Kucikas Cabins and Hotel Bambito (2017) our latest trip was to Costa Rica (2018). It was customary to ring-in the New Year with a get together which started as a house party in the late 70's at Juliet White's residence in Marcasa known as "Class of '63s Old Year's Night Party" and as the years passed and the number of guests grew, it became a more formal event, and we moved the celebration to one of the outstanding hotels. Since 2010 the RIU Hotel Plaza became our home away from home for all our "New Year's Dinner Dance" on December 31 and other activities. On the 31st of December 2018 we rang in the New Year for the last time with a grand celebration. Our last Church and Brunch Thanksgiving Celebration was in February 2020. Other plans were in the making for a big get together in 2020, but due to the pandemic plans were placed on hold. The activities that bless us the most are: social visits and charitable donations to individuals, homes for the elderly and other groups and organizations such as: Colon Soup Kitchen, Carlos Jordan Feed the Kids Program, praise and worship dance teams, Teleton 20-30, Asociación Afro-Descendientes Panameños Unidos (AAPU), and several churches and building funds. We believe that our children will follow us in doing good, serving the needy with love. Sadly, several of our class members have been called to be with the Lord, but we continue to remember them. We are very thankful to God for He has given us health and strength throughout these years, allowing us to enjoy each other and see how we have aged gracefully and enjoy seeing our families grow. We remain UNITED and we pray that we will be able to continue loving God and serving each other.

Submitted by: Benilda Holder, Juliet White, Basil Wilkinson, and Ellen Chandler

CLASS OF 1964 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00015?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



70th Birthday celebration on February 16, 2015 at the Riu Hotel in Panama City.



Luncheon at the Waikiki Restaurant, February 2019



50th Anniversary Reunion at El Panama Hotel, 2014

On August 4, 1984, the **Class of 1964** celebrated the 20th Anniversary of our graduation from Paraíso High School at the Lung Fung Restaurant in Panama City. The highlight of this event was the ceremony honoring more than 90 teachers from the Canal Zone School system. On June 29, 2007, we celebrated our second reunion at the Hotel El Panama, which included a candlelight tribute to our deceased classmates. This 43rd reunion, as well as the 20th, included a week of activities that permitted classmates residing in Panama and those residing overseas to reconnect with each other. The 50th Graduation Anniversary began with a week of activities on February 16, 2014, and culminated with a gala event on February 22, 2014, at the Hotel El Panama, in conjunction with the Rainbow City High School Class of 1964. In addition to reunions, our class has also had other activities: In 2015, we celebrated the 70th Birthday of class members at the Riu Hotel in Panama City. Since then, our class members have been meeting periodically for lunch at the Waikiki Restaurant in Parque Lefevre. These gatherings have served to renew friendships among members of the class and served as a basis of putting love into action by making voluntary monetary donations in lieu of flowers to the families of our deceased classmates.



Luncheon at the Waikiki Restaurant, Wednesday, October 6, 2021



Luncheon at Waikiki Restaurant, March 2016

Submitted by: Melva Lowe de Goodin, Ida Ramsey, Roxanna Olton, Elías Mendoza, Rosaline (Mamie) Russell, Carlos Williams, Beverly Philpotts Kennie and Ramón Morales

CLASS OF 1964 RAINBOW CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015016/00002>



We graduated on Thursday, February 6, 1964, at the Rainbow City Gymnasium. There were a total of 140 graduates. Our 50th Anniversary celebration lasted one week; from February 22-March 1, 2014. There were tours, Meet and Greet and a Sunday Brunch. The Dinner-Dance was held at the Panama Hotel in the City of Panama on March 1, 2014. This 50th Anniversary was a joint celebration with the Paraíso High School and the Rainbow City High School.

Our 25th Anniversary Dinner-Dance was held in Brooklyn, New York on June 24, 1989, at the Union Temple of Brooklyn. The New York group was in charge. **Cliff Lever** (R.I.P.) was the "glue" that kept our group together. We honored two outstanding athletes namely, **Emerson G. Farquhar** and **Josefina Sobers Anderson**. Our classmate, **Maria Felix Gondola** was also honored. My daughter, **Thirzah R. Wilkinson**, accompanied me to that celebration.



Beverly Prescod (R.I.P.) was the person who kept us afloat for all the years prior to our 50th Anniversary in 2014. She was a very valuable classmate. Beverly had sales to raise funds for the class on various occasions. They had food sales, bingos and raffles. She also helped our less fortunate classmates whenever necessary. She was the glue that kept our class together for many years.

During our active years, we made donations to two charities on a regular basis: The British Aid Society (Catherine Brown's Home) and the Hogar Atlantico. For many years our class attended church services in Colon and Panama, alternately. On our 20th Anniversary, we attended the St. Mary's and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Margarita. We had graduates from various classes, 1949-1963, who joined in this celebration.

During 2010 we had two gatherings: One on February 26, 2010, an "Oldies by Goodies", at the home of **Basil and Sheila Clarke Wilkinson** in Betania. The other was on December 29, 2010. During these two activities we were happy to have some of our classmates from the USA with us. Prior to our graduation from high school, we formed a group and were called, "Los Decimos Alegres". We used to raise funds with food sales. We had an Amateur Night planned for the same day the 35th President of the United States, John F. Kennedy was assassinated. This activity was cancelled.



After our 50th Anniversary celebration, there was not much interest in maintaining the groups. The Colon-Panama branch took all the monies in the bank and decided to divide it and donate to the following charities: British Aid Society (Catherine Brown's Home), *Asilo Hogar Atlantico*, The Christian Feeding and Learning Center-Panama, located in Colon, Carlos Jordan's Kids "La Gran Familia", 10th Street Rio Abajo, Centro de Niñas Dr. Eno (Norma Lewis), and Daphne Turner Joshua Feeding Program in 6th Street, Rio Abajo. Over the years we have lost many of our classmates. Those of us who are still alive are blessed and we give thanks to GOD for that. May we all remember the *good ole days*.

Submitted by **Sheila Clarke Wilkinson, Claudia Cumberbatch DunnMoodie and Carlos Bennett**

CLASS OF 1965 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00003?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



50th Anniversary Reunion - Get Together at Classmate's Home - Boys to Men Sr. at Mother's Day Celebration

Our Class of PHS-65 has been very active and has maintained very close relationships with each other by activities and events, in person and virtually. We have celebrated six Gala Class Reunions, the best and last being our 50th Anniversary, February 2015 at El Panama Hotel. We've been on various outings, tours, local and abroad, including cruises. Among other activities and events, we have made home visits to the sick and shut-ins. Our classmates created a local and international chat pages to keep in touch, socialize, celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. We get together by chats or Zoom and pray for all classmates and families who are sick and/or undergoing troubling times. Our international group page was created prior to Covid-19 for planning our 75th Birthday (age) Celebration. When that in-person event was cancelled due to the pandemic, we had a virtual celebration on April 24, 2021. December 2010, members of the Panama group held their first Mother's Day Celebration at Waikiki Restaurant, which escalated over the years to El Continental and El Panama Hotels. One of the highlights was the group **"Boys to Men Sr."** comprised of PHS-65 classmates who sang the old groove and soul sounds. After ten continuous years, that event came to a close due to Covid-19. April 2017 and September 2019 members of PHS65 and their families conducted cultural and educational missions to Havana, Cuba. Highlighting these missions were the distribution of educational, clothing and personal hygiene supplies. Since August 2020, the local group has been meeting virtually on Sundays at 7 p.m. to discuss, reminisce, plan, study and pray on issues and events impacting our lives, and the lives of families and friends. Many classmates attend virtual church services, including services officiated by **Rev. Gilberto Hinds** PHS-65, and others Zoom services conducted by **Archbishop Robert Brown** and **Dr. Lurlene Brown** of PHS-65. We've memorialized our deceased classmates at all of our Gala Class Reunions. On September 20, 2021, we celebrated the life of our dear classmate **Cecilia Sinclair Gutierrez**. For several years, PHS-65 has donated and supported various organizations and individuals. Because of the recent pandemic and disasters throughout Panama and overseas, we've made donations to the areas of Chiriquí, Grand Bahamas and Haiti. Supplies were donated to Parque Lefevre National Police, and to local groups and individuals affected by the pandemic. Thanks for the opportunity to share our time, fun and experiences.



Submitted by Federico Smith and Linda Daniel

CLASS OF 1966 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00018?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

Members, family and friends of PHS '66 gathered in Panama from January 30-February 8, 2016 to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of our graduation. There was a spirit of unity and goodwill as we welcomed each other on Saturday January 30th at the Hotel Torres de Alba.



On Sunday January 31, we gave thanks to God for bringing us together safely once more and to ask for His blessings on our activities of the week as we worshipped together at the Rio Abajo Methodist Church. After the church services we returned to the Hotel Torres de Alba for our Memorial Service and Brunch. We had a touching ceremony to remember our deceased classmates by lighting a candle for each one and a video presentation with their pictures. Following the ceremony, we enjoyed a delicious lunch as we continued to renew friendships and reconnect with each other.

On Monday February 1, we left our hotel and departed for 3 days of rest and recuperation at the Decameron Resort. While there, we attended several informative workshops presented by some fellow classmates. On February 4, we traveled by train to Colon where we had breakfast at the Hotel Melia. We then proceeded to the Gatun Locks where we toured the expansion of the new locks. This event was coordinated by Carmela Gobern (sister of our late classmate Robert Lowe). Following the tour, we enjoyed lunch at the Portobello Grill. After the activities of the past five days, we took a well-deserved day off in order to prepare for our grand event!

On Saturday February 6, we attended a gala Dinner Dance at the Hotel Riu. We had over 300 in attendance and our classmates were elegantly dressed in our colors; gold and white. Our honorees were Dorothy Brooks and Lynette Gayle. What a wonderful time we had! On Sunday February 7 a group of us attended church service at the Evangelical Independent Baptist Church, La Unida in Chilibre, where our classmate Reverend Antonio Rodriguez is the pastor.

On our final day, February 8 (which coincided with our actual graduation), we returned to the Paraíso Ball Diamond (where our graduation took place 50 years ago), where we had a wonderful ceremony where each classmate was presented with a "Diploma/Thank You" certificate. At the culmination of the ceremony we released "Serene" balloons over the field. Following the ceremony we departed to the Radisson Hotel at Summit for brunch, entertainment and farewell.



After settling our financial obligations the class made monetary donations to the following organizations: Hogar Santa Luisa, Sociedad de Amigos del Museo Afroantillano de Panama (SAMAAP), Fundacion Pro Niños del Darien and Christ Fellowship Panama Feeding Center.

After having such a wonderful time, the classmates made a commitment to keep in touch and to meet more often. From that commitment, some classmates agreed that the next get together will be a cruise. On May 19, 2019 some classmates went on a cruise to celebrate our 53rd Anniversary. The group went on a 7-night Caribbean Cruise aboard the *Allure of the Sea*. The ship departed from Fort Lauderdale Florida and made stops in Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico.

Submitted by Raquel Gonzales, Vilma Bailey and Eric Greene

CLASS OF 1967 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00004?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

Paraíso High School Class of 1967 is in contact daily by means of a WhatsApp class group chat, that enables us to be in contact with classmates in Panama, in Mexico, throughout the United States, and wherever else in the world they may be. On the chat we share information about ourselves, family members, common friends or acquaintances. Normally, the information shared is based on daily blessings, birthday wishes, accomplishments, illnesses, or current issues.

Since graduation we have reunited to celebrate various graduation anniversaries beginning with the 15th Anniversary in 1982, 25th (1992), 30th (1997), 45th (2012), and our 50th (Golden) in 2017.

Below are photos from our 15th Anniversary Reunion and our 50th Graduation Anniversary Reunion:



Class of 1967 15th Anniversary Reunion in 1982, Hotel Gorgona Jayes, Panama



Class of 1967 50th Anniversary Reunion in 2017, Sheraton Grand Hotel, Panama

Over the years we have also gotten together periodically at the homes of classmates, at restaurants, and beach resorts, to celebrate birthdays or just to spend time together. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has interrupted our social gatherings for now; however, there are plans to get together again socially as we did before whenever it is safe to do so.

Submitted by Charita Small and Roberto Murdock

CLASS OF 1968 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00005?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

The Class of 1968 Paraiso High School celebrated our 50th Anniversary Reunion in Panama City with a week of activities (February 2-10, 2018) which culminated in a gala dinner-dance on Saturday, February 10, 2018, at the Hotel Riu, with 600 persons in attendance. Each attendee received a copy of our Souvenir Commemorative 2018 Calendar (see photo below).



On September 5, 2009 we celebrated our **60th Birthday Bash** at Glen Terrace in Brooklyn, New York. In 2019, we celebrated our **70th Birthday with the following two activities:**

On Wednesday, September 25, 2019, we had a Birthday Bash "Noche Tipica" Style at the Intercontinental Miramar Hotel, with a Panamanian gastronomic buffet, live music and a folkloric show. November 11-18, 2019 classmates, family and friends enjoyed a Caribbean Cruise to Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Mexico and the Bahamas. We have given to charity

on multiple occasions; our most recent donation was February 2019 when we gave a donation to the Orphanage *Hogar Divino Niño* in Los Rios/Corozal. Prior to our 50th Reunion we had a monthly newsletter known as *Keeping in Touch*. Today, it is known as *Keeping the Flame Alive*. We have had two female class singing groups. The first was *The Blossoms* and the second was *The Crystals* (photos at right).

The following are a few statistics from our Class of 1968:

- Three (3) mothers of classmates are alive (**Dorothy Graham, Iris Ellis and Vicenta Montero**)
- Two (2) fathers are alive (**Adrian Watson Sr. and William Hall**)
- Twenty-two (22) classmates served in the U.S. Military Forces
- Of a graduating class of 168, there are 39 classmates deceased
- We have celebrated the following reunions: 10th - 35th - 40th - 45th and the 50th
- We have classmates in Panama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, US Virgin Islands and Virginia.

We thank God for all His mercies and all the blessings received individually and collectively.



Submitted by Marcia Smith Williams, Eustace Mathews & Carmela Lowe Gobern

CLASS OF 1968 RAINBOW CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015016/00016>



Golden Anniversary Reunion at the Continental Hotel 2018 honoring Prof. Arroyo



Excursion to Punta Cana, 2015

In 2020, due to the pandemic, we were unable to meet in person but due to technology, we still were able to meet via Zoom for a Rekindle Meet and Greet on November 7. Our last in-person Class Reunion was held from July 27 to August 5, 2018. We celebrated our 50th Year Anniversary Reunion in Panama City at the Continental Hotel and part of the time in Bocas del Toro at Hotel Playa Tortuga. We had a great time. Our class honored teacher **Justo Arroyo**. Although that was our last reunion, we continue to be active. In July 2016 when our classmate, **Leon Cumberbatch** passed, we created a fund in his remembrance. His passion and dedication to help others drove us to continue his legacy to support charities, feed the needy, assist small churches and grant scholarships when able in both Colon and Panama City. Since its inception, we have raised almost \$15,000.00 that we have distributed. Every year the donors and donations have increased. Thank you. Donations can be made at any time by contacting **Carlos Roberts** at 407-616-9881, email tatacdr@aol.com or **Courtney Thomas** in Panama at 6643-4435. Some of our previous activities have included the following:



The Leon Cumberbatch Grant supports several charities.

- June 27-July 4, 2015, RCHS Class of 68 and Friends trip to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.
- March 10 to 17, 2013, the RCHS Class of 68 and Friends flew to San Juan, Puerto Rico where we stayed a few days then boarded a cruise ship to St. Thomas, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, St. Maarten and back to Puerto Rico (photo below):



- August 1-9, 2008 we held our 40th Year Reunion events in Panama at the Hotel Continental. We stayed at Torres the Alba Hotel. We honored Prof. **Filemon Chavarria**.

We have enjoyed our trips with classmates and friends. Along the way, we have lost some. Throughout the years, some of us have gotten together for breakfast, lunch or dinner. **To God be the glory!**

Submitted by **Cecele Redman Hall and Carlos Roberts**

CLASS OF 1969 RAINBOW CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015016/00012/1j>



50th Anniversary Reunion at El Panama Hotel in 2019

The Rainbow City High School Graduating Class of 1969 received their diplomas on February 4, 1969. A total of 104 students received their diplomas that evening and roughly 70% of these emigrated almost immediately, or not many years later, to the United States.

The majority of our class members, whether in Panama or in the US, have done well for themselves as it relates to their personal accomplishments, both on a professional level and in their personal lives; They were able to hold responsible jobs and maintain decent families within the communities in which they lived. It is also very significant to note that over the years after leaving high school, many of our class members have come to develop a strong spiritual relationship, which reflects that they have embraced values that were key to the survival of their ancestors who faced enormous challenges in their own time. We have among our class several pastors, lay preachers, church leaders in various capacities, and many who are simply dedicated members supporting the mission of their churches even in very simple ways.

Over the 52 years since our graduation, members of the class have organized several class reunions, the first one being on our tenth anniversary. On our 20th some from our class joined with several others from other classes in a grand celebration in Panama. We celebrated our 30th in Orlando, our 40th on a Caribbean Cruise, our 45th in Panama. We held pre 50th anniversary planning sessions in New York and in Houston and finally our 50th anniversary was celebrated in Panama in October of 2019: it was a celebration that included tours to beach resorts on the coast of Colon and tours to Bocas del Toro and several of its beautiful attractions.



Sadly, the first member of our class to die was Victor Thinker, event that occurred within the first 3 months after graduation. Since then, approximately 30% of our classmates have passed away, but we thank God that those who remain continue to encourage each other to live lives that will contribute to making our world a better place for those who are coming behind us.

Submitted by Arcelio Hartley and Van Watson

CLASS OF 1970 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00007?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



Little did we know that the World would have gone into lockdown after celebrating our 50th Class Reunion in Panama in 2020. We mourn the loss of friends and family members who fell victim to Covid19. During these darkest times, we came together as a group to support and lift each other up. We stayed in touch and celebrated each other through Zoom, daily WhatsApp inspirational messages and testimonials, social media, and our class website. We made several donations to non-profit organizations in Panama that are helping the underserved community. The majority of our class members turned 70 in 2021. While we could not celebrate that milestone as a group, we are in the early planning stage to host a 70 something Bash in the late summer of 2023 in Atlanta!

The following are a few photographs of our past gatherings:



Submitted by Alma Wilson

CLASS OF 1970 RAINBOW CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015016/00013>

In February 2020, Rainbow City High School Class of 1970 celebrated its 50th Graduation Anniversary. Members of the class came together in Panama City for a full week of joyful celebration. The festivities were culminated with a Gala Dinner Dance. Honorees at the event included our elementary school teachers: Marjorie Heath, Edith Jones, Celia Henry, Florence Cobham, Joycelyn Gooden and Professor Charlotte Gooden-Toussaint; high school gym teacher. Professor Gooden-Toussaint was an international track and field star who won multiple medals and was honored twice as Panama's Athlete of the Year. The key note speaker, Justo Arroyo Ph.D., is an author of several award-winning stories and novels. In some circles he is acclaimed as one of the national treasures of the country. Dr. Arroyo was our high school Spanish and Philosophy teacher. A group of our friends, family members, and classmates, were granted permission to tour our former school complex; the buildings and site is now an annex of the University of Panama. Also, we had a wreath laying ceremony at the memorial built to honor our ancestors who were laborers of the Panama Canal. The memorial is at the east end of the main school building, and was built during our time at the school.



Rainbow City High School Class of 1970 50th Graduation Reunion Meet-and-Greet Reception



Members of the Class of 1970 in February 2020 after the Wreath Laying Ceremony at monument for Panama Canal Laborers (left to right) Enrique Cumberbatch, Amelia Powllet, Rudolph Muir, Ricardo Bowen, Francisco Greaves, Charles Christoph, and Elsie Brathwaite

Some of our other past activities and locations are reunions in Orlando, Florida (2005); Panama City (2003 and 2017); Kid's Halloween Party, Brooklyn, New York (1989); Trip to Atlantic City, New Jersey and Mother's Day Dinner Dance, Brooklyn, New York (1990). Currently, we are in contact with approximately 75% or more of our former classmates via internet chat and/or our Rainbow City High School Class of 1970 website. We use the communication forums to kindle our friendship and respect for each other. Our class members are very grateful to individuals from our past community, parents, teachers, and school administrators. They worked hard towards providing us with a top notch education for our social success and positive contributions in our chosen careers.



Rainbow City High School Class of 1970 Park Casual Day 2005 Reunion, Orlando, Florida

<http://bdigital.binal.ac.pa/bdp/pioneers%20in%20canal%20zone.pdf>

Link to *Pioneers in Canal Zone Education*, published 1949 is an in depth history of our school system and first teachers. The booklet and event program was given to each person at the wreath ceremony.

Submitted by Ricardo Bowen

CLASS OF 1971 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00008/1j?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



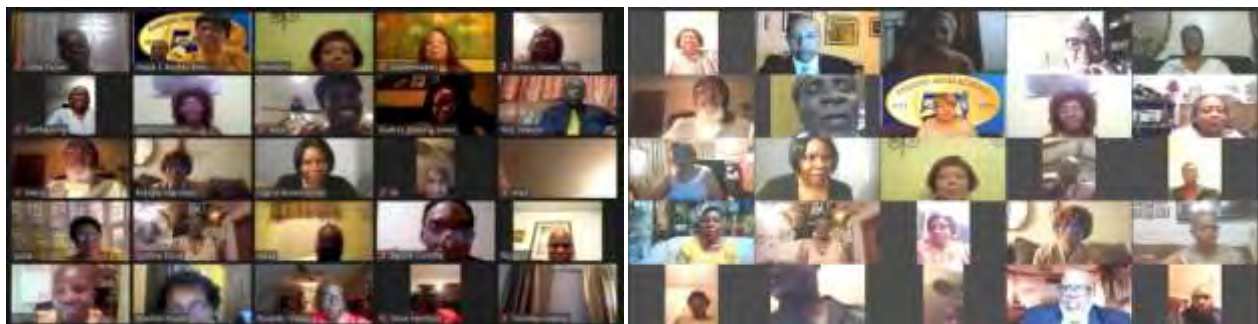
PHS Class of 1971 45th Anniversary in July 2016 at Hotel Continental, Panama City

Paraíso High School Class of 1971 held our “50th Anniversary Virtual Celebration” via Zoom on Saturday, March 13, 2021. This was the very first anniversary celebration by a class from the Latin American Schools by virtual means due to Covid-19 restrictions. A religious and inspirational program was held that included recognition of classmates online and remembering deceased classmates. Before and after the program, there was time for classmates to converse with each other and reminisce on past events in school and in the community.



MARCH 13, 2021, 50TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL CELEBRATION:

<https://youtu.be/2nHe-35 t4s>



IN AUGUST 2016, CLASS OF 1971 PHS, MADE A DONATION TO THE COMEDOR INFANTIL DIVINO NIÑO IN SAN JOAQUIN, PANAMA CITY:



After our 45th Anniversary Celebration held in Panama in August 2016, a donation was made to the Comedor Infantil Divino Niño. Plans are in progress for our “70th Birthday Bash Celebration” to be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29, 2022 in Houston, Texas. The class has a very active Group WhatsApp in which approximately 63 members are on the link.

Submitted by Toribio Martin

CLASS OF 1972 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00009?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

Our last reunion on Saturday, June 30, 2007 was a most elegant, memorable and celebrated our **35th Anniversary and Class Reunion** with a themed **Black & White Gala Dance** held at the Salon Bella Vista, Hotel El Panama in our beloved *patria*. Activities included: a Bienvenida, Sunday worship, fun at Decameron, NocheTípica @ Pencas, dinner at Miraflores Locks and a fun farewell party. Highlight of the Gala's celebration, besides reconnecting with classmates, was sharing this celebration with family and friends. We honored many of our professors: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Blackman, Mr. Hermoso, Ms. Hayot, Ms. Lennan, Ms. Redhead and Mr. Wattlely. Honorary High School Diplomas were presented to classmates who did not experience graduating with our group; and, remain devoted, loved and forever members of our class. Prayers were extended in memory of classmates who passed on and are forever in our hearts and memories. Classmates of PHS72 have always been a close knit, socially conscious and community inspiring group. We maintain our friendships and communicate via a WhatsApp group chat celebrating birthdays and the highs/lows of life. Daily, we encourage and pray for each other. Before the pandemic shutdown, whenever a classmate visited Panama, we gathered (our mini reunions), enjoyed great food, conversations, dancing, much laughter, hugs and each other's company.



Our People, Our Community, Our Legacy -- Classmates worldwide are contributing to the betterment of our globe in countless and private ways. A few outreach and community projects are mentioned below:

- For over 35 years monetary donations have been raised and supplies sent to uplift a small community, Berindin, in The Gambia, a country in West Africa to assist families, for local clinics and school, conducted educational seminars for teachers and contributed to the construction of a mosque.
- Volunteer at a Community Senior Center to help prepare food, set up/clean up and transport seniors to/from the center. Due to the pandemic and ensuing closure of the center, assisted "Meals on Wheels" program to deliver meals to seniors and others in need on weekdays. Meals left over are frozen and reheated for delivery to shelters and to the homeless on the weekends.
- Spearheading a drive to raise donations & contributions to assist "refugees" from Afghanistan & Haiti.
- Founded the Corozal-Gatun-Mt. Hope Cemetery Preservation Foundation (CGM) an organization dedicated to the preservation of the cemeteries where our ancestors (the builders and workers of the Panama Canal and their families) are buried. Classmates support this effort and the annual local events. Since the pandemic, "Adopt-A-Grave" is a concept in which financial support is needed and participation is greatly appreciated.
- Director of the Pan-Caribbean Sankofa, partnered with the University of Florida at Gainesville, FL to record and preserve oral interviews from the descendants of West Indians who lived on the Canal Zone and in Panama to share their stories and experiences during the construction of the Canal. Driven by the belief that the sacrifices of our ancestors who paved the way for us should be given proper honor and respect; our stories should be told by us, passed on to generations and not forgotten or erased.
- Pan-Caribbean Sankofa participated in giving an oral interview recounting life experiences growing up in the Canal Zone. Served as a member of Sankofa's interview panels. Active church and vestry member and volunteer in church's Thrift Shop, restoring items for sale and managing the store during hours of operation.
- Volunteer as retired healthcare professional to assist as interpreter and translator for Spanish speaking patients often with referrals and understanding of their medical inquiries.
- Contribute to charitable organizations, i.e., St Jude Children's Research Hospital, refugee assistance to Haiti and other world catastrophes. Assist with food distribution to the community. Support and raise funds to provide college scholarship to students.

Due to the pandemic, plans to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2022 is on hold. We remain prayerful and hopeful to reunite and celebrate at the appointed time. What we now know for sure is that life and good health is precious; so stay safe and blessings to all!

Submitted by Sonia Cox Small

CLASS OF FEB. 1973 RAINBOW CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015016/00015/1j>



The weekend of May 23-25, 2008, in Atlanta, Georgia, we celebrated our Rainbow City High School Reunion Classes of 1972 and 1973A and 1973B with great success. Our mission statement at that time was:

“Working towards the enhancements of alumni of the classes of 1972 and 1973”.

The idea of a high school Class Reunion for the Class of 1973 started with our classmate Aura Darkins Lloyd (Tita). She became ill from a terminal disease and one of her wishes was to see all her classmates together once again. In 2008, some dear friends/classmates decided to make it happen. In a short space of time, and with the help of God, they worked very hard to try to locate everyone from the Class of 1973 and the Class of 1972 both in Panama and overseas. They were able to locate at least 90% of our class, in addition to other friends and family members to have a class reunion in 2008. Some of us had not seen each other since graduation day. The smiles, laughter, reminiscing, and tears of joy were infectious! What joy and happiness we brought to Tita, and to each other! Since then we have kept in touch with each other, and some of us still talk to each other on the phone almost every day. We share our joys and pains, pray, cry, and support each other. We know that she's happy knowing that she was able to bring us together, and her dream still lives on! To God be the Glory!!!! The Classes 1972, 1973A, and 1973B contributed to a charitable fund and the proceeds were donated to a worthy cause. The coordinating committee members which made this reunion “a dream come through” were the following classmates: **Olando Ellis, Veronica Lewis McMath, Rolando Muir, Armando Hartley, Celia Lessey, Judith Mortimor Taylor, Vern Best, Perla Cockburn Best, Velda Hoy Veney, Marcia Piggott Atherley, Melida Reefer Edwards and Aura Darkins Lloyd (Honorary Member).**

Rainbow City High School Class of 1973 (February) 50th Anniversary Reunion

Members of the Rainbow City High School Class of February 1973 are meeting, planning, and fundraising for charitable donations to our homeland needed communities during this 50th Anniversary Reunion in Panama. **The anticipated dates are February 11 to February 18, 2023.**

The celebration will include planned activities throughout the week. Events are open to members of the classes of 1973, as well as other graduates of the Canal Zone Latin American Schools and the community who wish to join us in our celebration of this milestone and giving back to our homeland communities. For more information please contact:

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Submitted by Marcia Piggott Atherley

CLASS OF DEC. 1973 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00011/1j?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>

December 2021 will make it 48 years since we bid goodbye to our Alma Mater, PHS, the home to an elite number of professionals from all the classes who walked her hallways. And since we are sharing accolades, let's not forget professional athletes, as well as our law-abiding role models, who positively impacted their homes as well as neighborhoods.

Throughout the years since graduation night, we have celebrated anniversaries over time. The mix of members varies at each celebration, as availability sometimes affects attendance, but all in all each gathering brings out the best in the group. It is so beautiful to see old acquaintances put aside differences and engage in topics that we have traversed over time. Our last reunion was the Class of PHS December '73 Sweet 60, in Houston Texas, 2015, as we celebrated the year most of us turned 60. We celebrated 37 years in 2010 in Panama and 35 years in 2008 on a Caribbean Cruise. In 1984 a youthful 11-year celebration was held in New York City. In between these events, as many of us living abroad visit Panama, we can always count on a quick impromptu gathering to reunite and celebrate. These moments are photographically captured and too many to present.



Photos shared of our off springs in our WhatsApp group gives a sense of passing the baton, just as our ancestors did. Some who crossed an ocean, to a then foreign land we now call home.

The building of a pathway across our isthmus has served as a meeting point for centuries. This gathering has served to blend our DNA to what we are today.

The Class of December '73 has donated, as a group as well as individually, to others less fortunate. This help comes in the form of donations as well as hours worked at churches and civic organizations.

Graduates of PHS have impacted the world positively in so many ways and forms. The Class of December '73 is no exception. A moment of silence for our sisters and brothers whom have crossed the bar ahead of us. May they rest in peace. To the parents, uncles, aunts, and teachers, who gave us their all, "*mil gracias y un abrazo fraternal.*" Finally, we thank God for all our blessings.



Submitted by Chet Lavalas and Ricardo Llewelyn

CLASS OF 1974 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00020/1?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



Paraíso High School Class of 1974 has had three 7-day class reunions, all in Panama. The first one was our 20th Class Reunion in 1994. We then had a 35th reunion in 2009 and a 40th in 2014. In 2017 we celebrated our 60th Birthday on a Royal Caribbean cruise.

Several class members who reside in the U.S. travel back to Panama to visit and support family and friends for their 50-year reunions. We also take this opportunity to gather and celebrate our own reunion—our 44th in 2019 with a dinner at Hotel Sheraton and our 45th in 2020 at Hotel Miramar. In Panama and some U.S. cities, smaller groups gather to celebrate birthdays, weddings, go to church, attend sporting events, Panamanian parades and other activities, share a meal, shop or just hang out. We also support each other with prayers, words of encouragement, sympathy and condolences during difficult times.



60th Birthday Cruise, 2017

As a group, we previously donated funds to Catherine Brown’s Home in Panama. Individually, classmates have donated to several charities and/or non-profit organizations.

To stay in touch and maintain our forever friendships, we have a Website and a WhatsApp group chat. Most of our classmates are retired, reside in Panama and the U.S.; one currently lives in Tanzania, Africa. Many are grandparents and even great-grandparents—indeed a Blessing!



35th Reunion - 2009



40th Reunion - 2014



44th Reunion - 2019



45th Reunion - 2020

Submitted by Vielka Johnson Daniel

CLASS OF 1976 PARAISO HIGH SCHOOL

Yearbook: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00013?search=yearbooks%2cyearbooks>



Our 10th Anniversary was celebrated on March 7, 1987, at the Amador Officers Club, Ft. Amador, Panama. The guest speaker was **Prof. C. Williams** (now deceased).

Our yearbook of 1976, was dedicated to Prof. **Thais Maria Montez R. de Barboni** and in 2006, 30 years later, we honored **Prof. Barboni** on August 12, 2006, in Panama at the Hotel Continental, La Fontana Room. In 2014, an informal class reunion was held at a restaurant in Panama with class members and professors. Thanks to **Ernesto "Big Steve" Franklin** (deceased 2021), he could remember our professors by name, the subjects they taught and all that good stuff. He had an incredible memory and was the main one who kept us "glued together," especially since we are living in different states and/or countries. He was the one who would reach out and call to see how you were doing; the one, who would inform of the passing of a classmate or a loved one. He was special indeed and will be greatly missed.

Our last Class Reunion was July 3-7, 2019 in Houston, Texas, prior to the Pandemic. Our guest speaker was **Ricardo "Ricky" Johns Sr.**

Presently, the organizers for all our Class Reunions are the following: **Mario Straker, Guillermo Brito, Patricia Mayers, Shirley Ottey and Loretta Grandison**. A class group was formed via WhatsApp so that we could communicate with each other. The following are photographs from past reunions:



Submitted by Eneida Shan

THE END OF AN ERA

CLASS OF 1977 CLOSES OUT OUR LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOLS

Nuestro Director



PROFESOR DuBOIS W. ANDREWS

Jóvenes graduandos:

Son mis mejores deseos que tengan muchos éxitos en todas las actividades en que de hoy en adelante ustedes participen. Como hemos llegado a un acontecimiento trascendental en la historia de la educación en la Zona del Canal, el cierre de las Escuelas Latinoamericanas, se reconoce públicamente que ustedes la Clase del '77, son y para siempre serán la última promoción de esta escuela.

Espero que ustedes, aún más que sus predecesores, lleven consigo el don para crear un ambiente mejor para sí mismo y para toda la humanidad. Si mantenemos firmes los principios básicos donde rigen siempre los lazos universales de la hermandad de todos los seres humanos bajo la paternidad del Todopoderoso, nuestro mañana será menos problemático en comparación a la actual situación mundial en el día de hoy.

¡Mucha suerte y que Dios los bendiga!

DuBois W. Andrews

DuBois W. Andrews
Director

@WEB SITES

Latin American Schools in the Canal Zone, 1944: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI013240/00001>

Paraíso Junior-Senior High School:

<https://pcmc.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/canal-zone-schools/paraiso-junior-senior-high-school/>

Silver City Occupational High School: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00019279/00001>

Rainbow City High School Song, Canal Zone:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdV9Nc23JLs>

Class of 1940 Yearbook: The La Bocan: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00026325/00001/2j>

Photos of schools in the Canal Zone: <https://www.czbrats.com/Album/czschool.htm>



Carmela Lowe
Class of 1968
Paraíso High School

Stay safe,

Carmela Lowe Gobern

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