

## CLASS OF 1968 PARAIISO HIGH SCHOOL – JANUARY 1, 2020

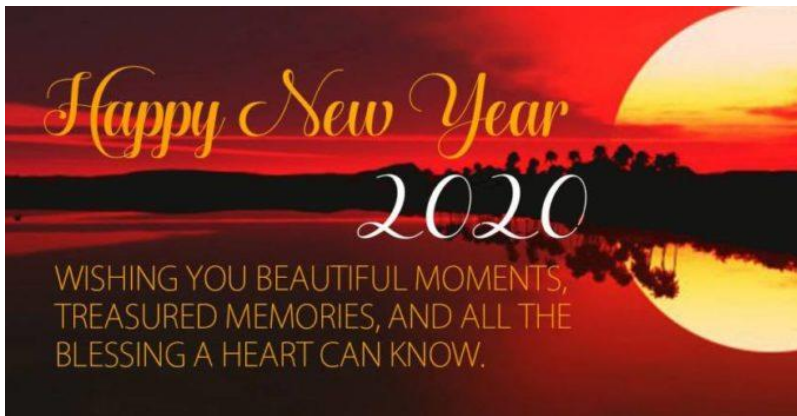
We have received overwhelming responses from a great majority of classmates indicating an interest in receiving this new report titled **“Keeping the Flame Alive.”** Thanks to all of you who have responded. As time goes by, this periodic report can only be kept alive once we receive input or information from all of you. Feel free to share with us **health tips, celebrations such as retirements, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, births, travels,** etc. Also those of us **who** are experiencing **health issues** as well as sad periods of bereavement in our families, feel free to share so that classmates are made aware and can offer words of support, concern or condolences.

We are all getting up in age (in the 70s) and while **“tomorrow is not promised to anyone”** there are always **“showers of blessings”** that we can be thankful for and share with each other.

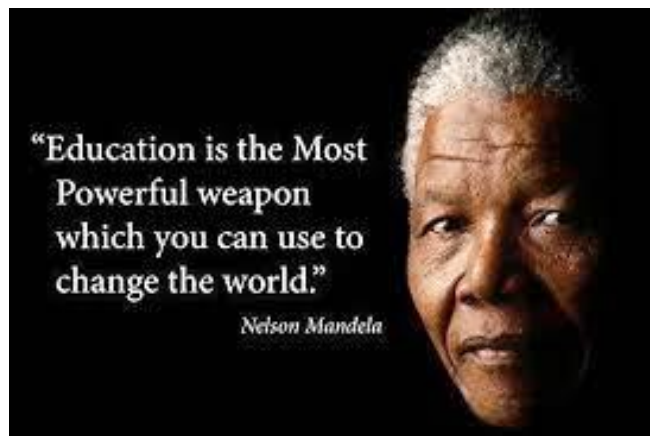
This is **Edition 9** of our periodic update on the members from our Class of 1968 PHS.



Our yearbook online: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00005?search=yearbooks>



### AN INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE SHARED BY CLASSMATE [DELNA BRYAN \(TEXAS\)](#):



## **CELEBRATIONS - BIRTHDAYS:**

Classmates celebrating another milestone during the months of January and February:

### **JANUARY:**

Jan 1 - Rubén Gómez  
Jan 2 - Rogelio Grannum  
Jan 4 - Lenka Semper  
Jan 6 - Mildred Spooner



Jan 8 - Manuel Vence  
Jan 9 - Dalys Villeda  
Jan 17 - Dalys Montero  
Jan 19 - Ricardo Everett

### **FEBRUARY:**

Feb 7 - Marcos Aird  
Feb 10 - Xenia Spencer  
Feb 14 - Xenia Ellis



Feb 20 - Roberto Graham  
Feb 25 - Yolanda Chandler

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

We remember our late classmates, who passed away during the month of **December (year indicated in parenthesis):**

- **Conrado Bennett** (1978)
- **Hazel Thompson** (year unknown)
- **Raúl Polanco** (2012)

We remember our late classmate, who passed away during the month of **January (year indicated in parenthesis):**

- **Mervin Blenman** (2001)

**TRAVELS:**

**FROM MATHILDE PADMORE:**

I truly enjoyed my trip to Costa Rica. It was an Amazing experience. Visited San José and Fortuna. The Hot Springs was fabulous and other tourist attractions. Life is good!



**SHARING FAMILY MEMBERS:**

**FROM CARMEN GRIMES ECCLES:**

Grandniece Katarina Smith at performance. She is the granddaughter of my sister Anita. Katarina graduates Fordham University School of Dance at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in June 2020 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA).



My #1 daughter, Ava with her children, Austin and Anya get together with cousin Katarina post-Thanksgiving day.

**SHARING FAMILY MEMBERS:**

**FROM CARMEN GRIMES ECCLES:**

**Classmate Carmen Grimes Eccles** shares granddaughter Nina Aaliyah who celebrated her first birthday on November 26.



**FROM ELPIDIA SÁNCHEZ ARCHIBOLD**

Celebrando el Mes de La Patria, celebración del Domingo Folklórico en la Parroquia Santa María en La Boca, Ancón, Elpidia con la nieta Anastacia e hija Thalía.



**FROM CARMELA GOBERN:**

My daughter Jamila Govern, who is a member of the U.S. Air Force stationed at Vance Air Force Base in Enid Oklahoma, spent Thanksgiving Day serving the homeless. In the photo Jamila is seen on the far right in a red sweater, with two other friends from her serving team:



**SHARING FAMILY MEMBERS:****The wife of our classmate Ricardo Everett:****BERNA MYLES DE EVERETT, PANAMA**

**Berna Myles de Everett** es Gerente de la empresa H. Tzanetatos Inc/División Agencias Lugo (Representantes de Marcas Extranjeras). Berna comparte lo siguiente: Tengo como parte de mis responsabilidades, velar para que se cumpla los reglamentos de las Autoridades Gubernamentales panameñas, respecto a la calidad de los productos que entran a Panamá de las marcas que representamos ya sea, comestibles, mercancía seca, o agrícola no comestible. En esta ocasión, mi visita a Canadá, era observar, participar en reuniones y actividades respecto a los árboles de Navidad, marca Kirk que importamos. Durante mi visita, pude participar en actividades relacionadas



a todo el proceso de los árboles antes de que salgan del país de origen (Canadá o Estados Unidos). Estas actividades se llevaron a cabo en presencia de algunos de los dueños de las plantaciones, autoridades canadiense y mía, para asegurar que, la cantidad, tamaños y calidad de árboles detallados en la documentación de embarque y que llegan bajo la marca Kirk, cumplan con lo establecido por ley de ambas países (Gran responsabilidad). En alguna de las fotos estoy con parte de Autoridades Canadienses y uno de los dueños de Kirk. En otras estoy en algunas fincas donde me explicaron sobre

el proceso de siembra y cuidado de los distintos tipos de árboles a la vez, pude ver el proceso de corte y transportada de las fincas hacia los patios en donde trabajan en el lavado, sacudida con máquinas eléctricas, embalaje de los árboles y su proceso de carga en el contenedor. Tuve la oportunidad de participar levemente en alguna de las actividades de menos riesgo y le digo, no es trabajo fácil. Es una experiencia única en la cual, pude actualizar mis conocimientos y aprender mucho más. Un trabajo trajinante pero disfruté cada momento; con personas muy agradables, dispuestas y hospitalarias que hizo muy placentera mi estadía y mucho más fácil mi enseñanza aprendizaje.”



**AN APPEAL FROM CLASSMATE [XENIA SPENCER FAREAUX](#) (New York)**

Dear Classmates: I received the message below from my cousin Norene Wade Manning who just got back from Panama and was sharing the needs of an orphanage. It's the same orphanage that our class donated and visited for our 40th Reunion on July 22, 2008 (see photo below): [Xenia](#)



I was wondering if our class of 68 could again rise up to some of the needs and help again in any way. Donations from the U.S. could be sent to me at the following address:

[Xenia Spencer Fareaux](#)  
**35 Colony Drive**  
**Holbrook, NY 11741-1210**

Or you may feel free to contact me directly at email [arxenia@aol.com](mailto:arxenia@aol.com) or telephone (?).

Donations from Panama may be sent to [Eustace Mathews](#). Contact Eustace at (507) 266-5060 or email [eustacem9@yahoo.com](mailto:eustacem9@yahoo.com)

**THIS IS THE CORRESPONDENCE FROM MY COUSIN NORENE WADE MANNING:**

Dear [Xenia](#):

We had a great opportunity while in Panama to not only spend time with family; but to also visit an orphanage close to my brother-in-law's heart. They like all organizations of this type are always in need of funds/support. If you know of someone/group that has the ability to donate, we highly recommend this orphanage. The director is a longtime family friend. She maintains the house in excellent conditions. The kids are clean and loved. It's her passion! She is amazing. They need money more than anything right now. Each political party determines if they want to donate funds. So with last party in office, they got ZERO dollars. Her monthly expenses are \$18,000 a month. The home has a lot of needs for repairs, maintenance, cameras, etc.

Full Name: Maritza Grifo

Company: Fundación Ofrece Un Hogar (also known as Hogar Divino Niño)

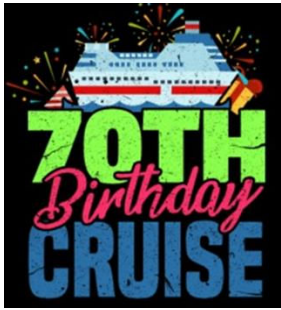
Mobile: +507 6605-1576

Work Tel: +507 317-9054

Email: [mgnfo18@hotmail.com](mailto:mgnfo18@hotmail.com)

Address: Los Ríos, Avenida Dos Bocas Calle Darkis, Casa No 6404

### Report of our 70th Birthday Anniversary Caribbean Cruise



The following classmates accompanied by their family and friends enjoyed our **70th Birthday Anniversary Caribbean Cruise** to: Ocho Ríos, Jamaica; George Town, Cayman Islands; Costa Maya, Mexico; and Ocean Cay, MSC Marine Resort, Bahamas, November 11-18, 2019.

**Gwendolyn Salkey**  
**Lorenzo Jones**  
**Yolanda Maynard**

**Ernesto Charles**  
**Roberto Graham**  
**Teresa Cherie**

**Vilma Poyser**  
**Paul Stewart**  
**Makeda Kamara**

#### Report and Photos by **Gwendolyn Salkey**:

The 70th Birthday Anniversary Caribbean Cruise was amazing, carefree, un-bothered; it was like we had all the time in world; the camaraderie was at its highest level. See attached pictures.



Because of our loyalty to the Cruise Line through all the changes of Port of Calls, our group was given special privileges by being assigned to the VIP section in the Pergoria Restaurant on the sixth floor. We had three tables reserved for our group, with our own ship servers for the seven nights. The service was excellent.



**Nov 12, 2019** was all day at sea. Our attire was jeans with a white top. The committee, Lorenzo, Yolanda and Gwen, gifted the group with a black tee shirt with seven champagne glasses with the 70's written on the glasses and the inscription 'Aged to Perfection' along with a rose gold bottle opener with the number 70, studded with white rhinestones.

**Nov 13, 2019** was Ocho Rios, Jamaica Port of Call stop. The attire of the day was the 'Aged to Perfection' tee shirt. We toured the town in small groups with some visiting the Dunn's River Falls. This night was our first formal night.



**Nov 14, 2019** was Grand Cayman Port of Call stop. We toured the Island in small groups. This night we celebrated our 70th Birthday Anniversary dressed in African Attire. The ship's Captain along with his crew and about 10 ship servers serenaded us with the birthday song while presenting the birthday cake. To our surprise, there was a special performance by one of the ship servers. It was amazing and so un-expected.



**Nov 15, 2019** was Costa Maya, Mexico Port of Call stop. We toured the private Island in small groups. Some visited the pyramids, while some hit the beach. This night, we danced and gamble all night in our all-white attire.

**Nov 16, 2019** was Cozumel, Mexico Port of Call stop. We were entertained by a street musician. Everyone did what they delight in doing, shop till you drop!



**Nov 17, 2019** was all day at sea and sadly the last night of our cruise. It was also Olivia Jones's birthday where we celebrated with a surprise cake and a special performance by our "star" ship server, where we all joined him in song. Guests that were in the restaurant also joined the festivity. It was beautiful.

**Nov 18, 2019** was disembark day. Overall, we all had a wonderful and great time together. Everyone is looking forward for our next venture, which is already in the works.

We are going to miss our classmates, their spouses, the friends that joined us, the breakfast, lunch and dinner chats, especially those midnight talks that led into the wee hours of the morning, so much that the ship servers, deck hands and even total strangers joined in on our fun reminiscing on old times. What an amazing and wonderful trip!!!



## **CLASSMATES COMMENTS ABOUT THE CRUISE:**

The cruise was great we had a fabulous time. I had a great time with my classmates. Mexico and Jamaica were great. **Ernesto Charles**

The cruise was exciting! But it was the togetherness that took the cake. There was no shortage of stories before, especially during the seven days at sea, or after the cruise before we departed to go home. We talked about the fun and the not so fun memories we experienced growing up as children in our respective communities and the trial and tribulations we encountered while going to school. On November 11, we cruised away from Miami Springs/Miami Beach to begin our cruise. Our first stop was **November 12** in Ocho Rios, Jamaica where several of us traveled to the Blue Hole in a part of Saint Ann's Bay. While at the Blue Hole Albert, my husband, and myself dared to explore the inner makings of the Blue Hole's rugged terrain. We made it through the slippery and hilly rain like forest. Unfortunately we did not have time to actually jump into the big hole itself. While in Jamaica we felt the culture connection between the people we meet along the way. **November 14** was Cayman Islands day, a lovely small bustling Island. It was onto Costa Maya, Mexico on **November 15** and then to Isla Cozumel, Mexico on **November 16** where while on land we tried to bargain with some of the merchants while we shopped in both areas of Mexico. **November 17** was another day at sea where we continued connecting in many different ways. As the time neared to depart, we expressed the possibility of keeping the togetherness going. My husband enjoyed my classmates and I had a lot of fun! Lets do it again guys! Peace and Love to all. **Vilma Nesfield Poyser**

At St. Ann's Bay, Ocho Ríos, Jamaica



**OBITUARIES:**

**Larry Cox**, brother of our classmate **Yolanda Cox de George**, passed away on November 15, 2019 in the United States. He was a graduate of the Class 1964 Paraíso High School. A celebration of his life was held on Monday, November 25 as follows: Viewing from 4 to 7 p.m. followed by his Homegoing Service at Frank Bell's Funeral Home; located at 536 Sterling Place, Brooklyn New York 11238. Interment was held on Tuesday November 26, same location. In addition to Yolanda (spouse Raymond); Larry is survived by brothers Ricardo and Raul; and other relatives.



**We extend sincere condolences to Yolanda and the members of the Cox Family.**

We learned of the tragic death of **Pete Cooper**, formerly of Santa Cruz, who graduated Dec. 1973.

We also learned of the death of **Dickie Carew** (Rod Carew's brother) who passed away and the funeral service will be in Brooklyn, New York on January 6.

**MAIL BOX ON FLAMES:**

**We received the following note from Veronica Bailey, widow of our late classmate Roberto Bailey:**

To the Class of 1968: On behalf of my children and myself, we will be forever grateful to the outpouring and support you have provided during Roberto's hospitalization and demise. Thank you so very much. May God continue to bless the members of the class with health and unity. **Veronica Bailey (Panamá)**

Thank you for the wonderful job and information you are submitting to the readers. God Bless you and your family. **Elpidia Sanchez Archibold (Panamá)**

Amiga: Quito mi sombrero a tu hija al igual que su esposo por haber sido reconocidos por un trabajo buen hecho ...."Producciones Breasia". Cabe mencionar también que usted y Alonso están muy orgullosos como debe ser. I remember talking to your daughter at the brunch we had. I know she wouldn't remember me. So happy for Nailah and Jamal and Eunice was right, her outfit was gorgeous! Thanks again for all you do to "Keep the Flame Alive". **Carmen Wade (New Jersey)**

Thanks very much for keeping THE FLAME afire. Wentworth and I left NYC early October for much need rest and rejuvenation. We first went to Palm Bay/Melbourne, FL until early November then onto Trinidad for paranda music and more rest. Tomorrow is travel day back to FL and then "NYC here we come" mid-month. Looking forward to being on the floor with our three grands. Keep well everybody. **Carmen Grimes Eccles (New York)**

Feel free to send your comments, input, feedback as well as information for a future edition.

*Carmela*

[goberncl@cwpanama.net](mailto:goberncl@cwpanama.net)

Tel. (507) 314-0398

Cel. (507) 6675-4507

U.S. (678) 995-7136