



Library Lingo

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Boss of the Year



His youthful and lanky frame masks an inner core of maturity, ambition and the determination to succeed. As the fifth of ten children, Russel Reid had to assume heavy responsibilities from an early age, drawing his inspiration from his hard-working mother. As early as age nine, he sold limes and fowls in St Martin to contribute to the family's budget. His chores included chopping, weeding and reaping from the 'ground'.

From these roots his disciplined and businesslike orientation developed. He describes himself as 'poor but proud' with a 'business mind.' He studied hard, literally by lamplight because he regarded education as a vehicle of social mobility and preparation for the world of work.

On leaving school he did some horticulture with the Department of Agriculture and then became a teacher at the Island Harbour Primary School for four and a half years from 1985. He began to consider the field of education as a career. Winifred Carty, Head Teacher of the Valley Primary School, encouraged him to apply for a scholarship to study library science at the University of the West Indies. Always ready to venture down untried paths, Mr Reid grabbed the opportunity and began undergraduate studies in 1989—a pivotal step for the development of library and information services in Anguilla. On his return he worked along with the U.K Library Advisor, Roy Tabor and other education officials on the Library/Teachers Resource Centre building project from 1994. Between 2001-2002 he completed a MSc programme in information management at the University of Lancaster University, U.K. He consistently develops his love of linguistics which even includes a little Chinese and Latin.

Twenty years later as Director of the Department of Library Services, Mr Reid is poised for serving in another post in the public service. He has been involved with the growth of physical facilities, equipment, services and staffing. He appreciates the life lessons gained from the camaraderie and conflicts of a female dominated staff. He has learnt to minimize the negatives and focus on being positive and optimistic. "Regrets" are not in his vocabulary, every challenge becomes an experience for positive change. His hope for the civil service is that its vibes ought to retain the 'best' and attract productive workers with a heightened sense of responsibility and accountability.

The staff of the Anguilla Library Service is very pleased that Mr Reid captured the award of 'Executive of the Year' for 2005. "Boss" is a term of endearment when applied to Mr Reid. All staff members admire his professionalism. He is reasonable, flexible, approachable, willing to listen, respects confidentiality and encourages staff development. We wish him success in all his future endeavours. - *Anthea and Jane*

Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning. *Maya Angelou*

The best all around Boss. He's very down to earth and I admire him for his positive and friendly attitude. Good luck in all you do, you will be greatly missed. - *Kimmy*

Mr. Reid is someone whom I perceive as fair, open and honest. Those are three of the qualities I appreciate in a Boss. -*Carmen*

For the short time I worked with Mr. Reid he made me feel welcome. Apart from his genuine friendliness, he is always willing to listen and help when necessary. Indeed qualities to be cherished. - *Joyce*

...A wonderful, understanding and kind person. He's a fun-loving, cool and easy going dude. He is a true gentleman. A good friend and an even better Boss! Best Wishes for the future. - *Julie*

The time I spent working with you will be treasured as you were an understanding & kind-hearted Boss. Best of luck as you take up your new post. -*Ingrid*

Both of us had a good working relationship. I enjoyed working with him. I wish him the very BEST. -*Riley*

Spectacular Guy.... A great role model —*Anthea*

A dedicated and hardworking individual who focuses on getting the job accomplished, while treating his staff as valuable assets. He never defines his employees by the position they hold but treats them all equally. This remarkable individual is not only a team player, but a good listener as well. Deserves every praise and accolade that is given him. -. *Althea*

To a Boss that is dependable, understanding and appreciative of his staff, to **Our Boss of the Year**, wishing you great success in all future endeavours. - *Anika*

An ideal manager, who treats his staff very well. - *Maureen*

Resourceful, reliable
Understanding, dependable
Simply humble
Stylish, sharp as a tack
Easy going, entertaining
Loyal and loving too!
- *Linda*

I will cherish the years that I have worked with you. Words can hardly express how considerate you were as a boss. All the best! -*Ethlyn*

You exhibit all the skills that many of today's executives lack. God's speed....sail on..... -*Rozell*

Wow !! I can't believe you're leaving us. You are a true, kind hearted, fun loving boss and friend. I know your new staff will grow to respect and love you just as we have. Have fun -*Jansie*

Looking Back..... Christmas Anguilla Style



Painting by Louise Brooks

When you think about "Christmas Anguilla Style" what really comes to mind? What do Anguillians who are overseas look forward to coming home for? If you'd asked me that same question some forty years ago I would have had a lot to tell you about.

First and foremost, I would have told you that underlying everything was a sense of sharing. It seemed as if everybody shared in celebrating Christmas – friends, family and neighbours. In fact the whole island enjoyed Christmas together! There was no radio station, no television station, very few telephones or cars, but somehow the island was united from Island Harbour to West End.

I would also have told you about the groups of serenaders who would tramp around from door to door, beginning several weeks before Christmas and going all the way 'till five o'clock Christmas morning. Groups like Feddy Carty with his wife and string band, Florrie from North Side and her

group, the church choirs, the clubs, the family groups, the scratch bands – all going from door to door bundled up in sweaters and towels. Their one mission was to spread the Christmas feeling around Anguilla. Of course there was the reward of money or drinks, but the joy of being in a group, sneaking up quietly to a house to waken the inhabitants and seeing the happy looks on their happy faces was by far the greatest reward. For that we would sing so lustily that by Christmas day we'd all be hoarse.

Then, I would also have told you about how people would hunt through the bushes on Christmas Eve to find a Christmas tree – (what we call locally a "Five-finger" tree), shape it and stand it in a bucket of sand and stones. The bucket would then be covered with Christmas paper or foil paper and the tree decorated by the family. The smell of that freshly cut tree mingling with the smells of Christmas baking and cooking helped to create a mounting feeling of anticipation.

Then, there were the Christmas Sports that I would surely have told you about. There were the masqueraders, the clowns, the mocko-jumbies dancing on high stilts, and the fellows who spread the latest gossip through what they call "neager business" – men with blackened faces, dirty clothes and a Bible reciting the latest scandals with the names of the characters changed.

Christmas was a holy time and one of the few times of the year that everybody made sure to go to church, the others being Easter and Old Years Night since it was important to start the

New year right. Everybody shared in the celebrating of the Christ Child, there was also sharing for the poor and needy children at special Christmas morning ceremony at the hospital when Santa Claus would present gifts. At home everybody shared in the preparations and Christmas day was a family celebration. People who had goats or sheep would butcher a few. Some would sell the meat; others would gladly give a neighbour or friend a leg quarter. Everybody looked forward to their stewed pigeon peas, potato pudding, coconut tarts, pound cake, Joe Gumbs sodas and other treats. You could look forward to receiving something from somebody, regardless of how small. There weren't many gifts to choose from nor a lot of money going around, but generally, children and adults gave and accepted gifts in the true spirit of Christmas. Above all, there were the gift of love and the gift of sharing.

Adapted from "Christmas Anguilla Style" By Linda M, Banks., Anguilla Life Magazine Vol1 No3 Christmas 1998



Photo by Colville Petty



Spreading the word.....

Throughout Maya Angelou's life, from her childhood in Stamps, Arkansas, to her world travels as a bestselling writer, good food has played a central role. Hallelujah! The Welcome Table is a testament to the good old soul food she grew up on. It is indeed a feast of stories, garnished with recipes of life and lavish home-cooked food. Angelou shares memories pithy and poignant—and the recipes that helped to make them both indelible and irreplaceable. Savour this book as you travel with Maya Angelou on this richly spiced journey..





Fishing For Facts...

In the last issue the burning question focused on whether metal detectors should be installed in certain public institutions in response to the escalating violence in our community. Ninety-three percent (93%) of our readers thought that tougher security measures could help. Here are some of the responses:

It is absolutely necessary that we go to the greatest lengths to protect today's and tomorrow's future. We can use strip search and metal detectors even searching of shoes to help solve young gang violence.

Yes, that would be wise to increase security to avoid a potentially violent situation. Also the primary schools need looking at.

This would definitely be a good precaution taking in consideration the violence between the east against west gangs.

Yes, metal detectors should be installed at the court house. In fact, they should be installed at most venues where large crowds gather.

One lone dissenter said:

I think we need to shoot first and search later. More fire to violence.

This comment is very disturbing but perhaps reflects the views of the perpetrators. Let's take notice. After more violence in the high school the teachers went on strike

to grab the attention of the authorities. Since then some action has been taken, walls are getting higher, searches are being conducted and so on. **Is this the answer ?**

What suggestions do you have dealing with violence in schools?

Drop in at the library, Call 497-2441 or email us..

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't Complain.
Maya Angelou

What's Cooking?...

FESTIVE LIGHT FRUIT CAKE

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 c. cherries, chopped
1 c. light raisins
1 c. candied pineapple, chopped
1/2 c. mixed chopped fruit & peels
1/2 c. candied lemon peel, chopped
1/2 c. candied orange peel, chopped
1 c. walnuts, chopped
3 c. sifted flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 c. butter
1 c. sugar
4 eggs
1/4 c. light corn syrup (optional)
1/4 c. orange juice
1/4 c. sherry

METHOD 1

1. Combine chopped fruits, peels and nuts, mix with 1c. of the flour.
2. Cream butter and sugar until light.
3. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each one.
4. Combine corn syrup, orange juice and sherry and add alternately with remaining flour to creamed mixture.
5. Fold in fruits and nuts.
6. Pour into two well-greased ring molds or in one large tin.
7. Bake at 275°F for 1 hr. and 15 mins.

METHOD 2

1. Cream butter (1 lb.) and sugar (1 lb.). Add eight large eggs one at a time.
2. Add 1 tsp. lemon essence, 2 tsp. lime rind, 2 tsp. almond essence and 2 tsp. vanilla.

3. Mix and sift dry ingredients - 1 lb. flour,
- 4 tsp. baking powder, 2 tsp. mixed spice and 1/2 tsp. grated nutmeg. Add gradually to creamed mixture.
4. Mix in fruit and browning as desired.
5. Put in greased tins doubly lined with Brown paper.
6. Bake at 250°F or Regular 2 for 3 hours or until done.

NOTE:

Remove from oven and soak while hot with cherry brandy or a mixture of cherry brandy and rum or with sherry.



ENJOY

Tickle Your Mind...

Anguillian Christmas

H R I S L R I E M C G S A F S P
 J U C H E S S I O R C A K E E X
 S Q H O R A E D C G I N N I R N
 N P U P R N D S K L S W E C E W
 W U R P O T A T O P U D D I N G
 O D C I S A R N J M M E Y S A A
 L D H N Y C E E U B D C L S D N
 C I V G C L U S M O N O B B E M
 N N G R U A Q E B X A R S L R Q
 E G G H R U S R I I B A S A S T
 V C O Y T S A P E N G T I C G M
 O E M B A I M N S G N I M K N F
 K V D U I X N F G D I O E C I Y
 C L E A N I N G P A R N O A K N
 O O S M S Y O T F Y T S N K A O
 R C C H R I S T M A S E V E B T

BAKING BLACKCAKE BOXINGDAY CAKE CHRISTMAS CHRISTMASEVE CHURCH
 CLEANING CLOWNS CURTAINS DECORATIONS LIGHTING MASQUERADES
 MAUBY MISSBLYDEN MOCKOJUMBIES POTATOPUDDING PRESENTS PUDDING
 ROCKOVEN SANTACLAUS SERENADERS SHOPPING SORREL

Brain Teasers

If you are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove & a gas lamp.
 And you only have one match, what do you light first?



You have a barrel, filled to the top with water, which weighs 150
 pounds. What can you add to the barrel to make it lighter?



If today is Friday, what is the day that follows the day that comes
 after the day that precedes the day before yesterday?



What do Anguillians call what Bajans call Coucou?



What Caribbean island makes a drink distilled from cactus juice
 and flavoured with aniseed?

There's a world of difference
 between truth & facts. Facts
 can obscure the truth.
 Maya Angelou

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Tongue Clapper Say.....

Ha, Ha, Haa, Haaaaa, Haaaaa, Heeee, Heeeeeee..... Dis land business is de hottest melee in town. Ayou hear how dem want tek way you land from under you foot. Ayou hear 'bout de new law dem. Some kinna bill dem call it. Dem mussa chopping down bush. Gyul dem having so much meeting 'bout dis ting me head feel like ti spinning. So much ting in dis law ah don't know how to start. Anyway dem say 'tis de big Lawyer dem say dat all de land law dem gotto throw way. Dem say you ca'an live in Yuh house till it done build yuh know. Girl you ca'an leave no steel stickin up till you catch you hand to go up Top, no more. Ha, haaaa, haaaaa! Dem say if you house unsightly, if yuh got rocks or dirt pile up in you yard you going get in trouble. Ah hear Dem say too dat if yuh got a piece ah lan and yuh ain't doing nuttin' wid it any body could just come buil on it. Betcha somebody going get lock up, dis guava season. Gyul, people don't mek joke 'bout land in Anguilla, yuh know. Family does chop up one annudda 'bout land here. Ayou hear 'bout de Land bank? Dem say dem putting land in a bank for de future. Ah wonder how Land goin' fit in a bank. Mussa money dem mean. Ah don't know, me gyul. Dem had March asking di "fine ants" to resign cause Dem say dem biting we hard. 'Tis dem wan to open dis Bank. Da wha' di school chirrun say. Di Lawyers Dem say dat dis land law tekkin' 'way we culture. But we culture gahn long time. Imagine Christmas coming and yuh caan even hear a lil serenader or nuttin like da. Gyul I useta like dem ole time days. So much tart and potato pudding and Joe Gumbs soda fuh so...Everybody had somet'ing in dem rock oven or in dem drum bakin'. Dem serenaders useta have fun. Yuh remember how Florrie dem useta tief de pudding 'an ting out di pot. Everybody useta go by everybody and get some lil t'ing. 'Taint got no Christmas no more. Remember di string band music. Gyul, I could still hear Feddy Carty on di fife. He was sweet yuh know. I could still see di mocko jumbies like Sonny Petty and Jimmy Carty dem. 'Ti useta have clowns too yuh know. Anyway tings getting hot. But, lemme cool down and wish ayou Merry Christmas. Ah know me frien' Lick Mout' Lou goin' fire some Guava Berry fuh di Christmas. I goin do a ting or two meself ... I could still shake a leg. Wha' 'bout ayou?