



SUMMER, 2016 NEWSLETTER

CLUB PEACE & PLENTY

PO Box 29055
Georgetown, Exuma
Bahamas

Reservations

Toll Free: 800-525-2210

Club Telephone

242-336-2551

242-336-2093 (fax)

Email:

info@peaceandplenty.com

Web Site

www.peaceandplenty.com



GREETINGS FROM PEACE AND PLENTY!

The ownership, management and staff of Club Peace and Plenty send the warmest Exuma greetings to our valued guests and friends. It's our pleasure to send along the latest happenings on our lovely Bahamian Out Island.

Our new regional hospital has finished construction some time ago and reports indicate it has been furnished with the latest equipment and appliances. Notwithstanding this progress, the hospital has yet to open as a result of a shortage of medical staff. Rumors have it that positions will be offered to senior medical staff in Nassau that wish to move from the hustle and bustle of the capital to a more laid back life style of the out islands. In the meantime, the word is out that the Government will move the current George Town Clinic to the hospital to get the ball rolling. This move will open the possibility that the current Clinic building will be put to good use as the Regatta and Exuma Island Museum to showcase some wonderful old photos and memorabilia for future generations of visitors and Exumians.

Sad News....Michael Minns, part owner of Minn's Supermarket in George Town lost his wife Sandy, to cancer. Her long time battle was finally lost in Miami where they moved to accommodate her gallant

struggle. A joyous 'celebration of life' was held in the Anglican Community Center in mid-August, with many local and ex-Pat friends attending. A sumptuous buffet was enjoyed by all. She will be sorely missed.

Exuma's favorite retired dentist Dr. Bill Lee (a Florida State grad) who provided expert dentistry for over three decades has passed away from bladder cancer while in a Florida hospice. He had retired to his lovely Exuma seaside home some years ago. He was a fine gentleman and an asset to our community. RIP Bill....

The fall/winter business at the Peace and Plenty has been the best since pre-recession years. The Thursday night Barbeque on the pool deck and been very well attended with many visitors and locals enjoying cool exotic

Tropical drinks and reasonably priced dinners of fish, lobster, steak, ribs, chicken and hamburgers, hot off the grill. Our band delights with many of the favorite, island songs for your dancing pleasure. Come down soon and experience this island magic as the moon climbs over Elizabeth Harbor.

Did You Ever Wonder....! While sitting around Lermom's Reef Bar, gazing over lovely Elizabeth Harbor... did you ever wonder the origin of the huge monument on Stocking Islandwho put it there and why? There was a monument showing on the plat of 1835 according to lifetime resident Basil Minns (he grew up in the house that became the Peace and Plenty lobby and kitchen) but no other information could be found. Many suggested it was a salt availability marker. But there were no salt ponds or commercial salt raking at George Town, the closest being in Williamstown, Little Exuma and on Norman's Pond Cay up the Exuma chain.

Captain Jerry Lewless, an original Exumian, said that his father was a contractor on Exuma in the early 1940's and refurbished and enlarged the monument for the U.S. Navy Seaplane Base. It was used as a harbor marker for the Navy for the anti-submarine Catalina Flying Boats to be able to distinguish between Lee Stocking Island in the Chain north of Exuma and the base on Exuma. As a side note, it's been said that the Navy crashed three flying boats while landing in the harbor, and that one of them crashed into a navy launch. Some of the wreckage still remains on the bottom around a quarter mile off the Peace and Plenty.

Walt (Mongo) Stewart, now retired from the Ft, Lauderdale Sheriff's Department, flew his Aztec twin engine aircraft in with another supply run for the Peace and Plenty. He usually takes a few days of R&R to enjoy the hotel and do some fishing. While at the

hotel he says many guests he meets are surprised to know that he has flown for the Peace and Plenty for the last 28 years. Another question often asked was does he fly passengers? The answer to that is 'No' but on occasion will take a couple and their pet simply because they don't want to put their pet in a cage. Most of his flights are only cargo runs for the hotel. He has no set schedule but averages once a month from his hanger at the Commercial Airport in Ft. Lauderdale...weather and load permitting. Thanks Mongo, for a job well done.

Bonefishing in Exuma is world class. Interested parties looking for a guide, may contact our manager, Magnolia, and ask about ... Martin... who fishes out of Moss Town. He has a pleasing personality and is an excellent bonefish guide.

Scuba diving anyone? Turtle Divers can provide that diving opportunity right at the Peace and Plenty....dive the stunning crystal waters of Exuma....call Garvin at 242-524-3305 or the hotel front desk.

Tropical Gardens. The 12 unit Tropical Gardens rental complex about 3 miles west of George Town is for sale. Your chance to live in Exuma and generate Income.... Call Charlie Pflueger in Ft. Lauderdale at 954-915-0531.

Island Jewelry. Our long time breakfast/lunch cook, Linda Johnson (32 years) has designed and made a lovely and colorful inventory of island necklaces, bracelets, ear rings, straw bags and such...made from local sand, shells, and straw... under the banner of 'Lynn's Creations' (lynnscreations@hotmail.com). She is trying to build her business and would appreciate it if you would contact her for descriptions and prices.

EMPLOYEE OF THE ISSUE



Cook Linda Johnson has been with the Peace and Plenty since January 1983 when she started as a kitchen helper. She advanced to breakfast/lunch Cook a few years later. She was born in Steventon, Exuma in 1953 and married Doyle Johnson in 1974... subsequently having 5 children and 8 grand-children. She is a talented 'crafter' and has her own line of island jewelry she sells locally and online. Linda said that although it has been challenging, she loves her job and has enjoyed being a valuable part of the Peace and Plenty. The hotel is honored to have Linda as part of our family!

Yum! Yum!... Exuma was treated to a special 7 course dinner menu, wine pairings, and followed by Greycliff (a famous restaurant in Nassau) hand rolled Cuban cigars...held on August 20th at 'Catch Fire' restaurant on the south side of the island. The Michelin Star Chef Alyn Williams (chef at the famous London Savoy Hotel) presided....It was a clear evening with a fantastic sunset painting the western sky pink, over a calm bay. Torches flickered, illuminating the enthusiastic diners....The main dish was Barbequed Pork Belly/corndog/grilled slaw and stuffed potato skins....The dinner was concluded

with a cheesecake to die for and roasted white manicotti with passion fruit...Phew...
Like the Jamaicians say 'better belly bust than good vittles go to waste!'

Pass the Salt! Everybody knows that salt is essential to sustain life in all humans and animals. In the olden days island people had to find their own supply. An example of this was the folks at the Ferry on Little Exuma dammed up a small saltwater creek and created their own small salt pond. When the salt was collected it was piled up and tightly packed in the shape of an igloo...then dried palmetto fronds put on pile and set on fire...causing the top layer of salt to melt and create a waterproof protective skin. The final step was the cutting of a tunnel in the bottom sidereaching in and scooping out whatever salt was needed. Darned smart these island people!

When Pigs Swim...! Exuma has changed the old saying 'When Pigs Fly' with the 'swimming pigs' of the Exuma Island Chain. Pull up to Leaf Cay or another cay farther up the chain towards Staniel Cay and up to 50 pigs will swim out to the boat for a feeding sure to follow. Two documentary films of the pigs have been produced...one played in the U.S. and the rest of the world and one currently in final production. We have had visitors at the Peace and Plenty that flew from Europe to see the pigs (I found this hard to believe but true non the less). Another stop on the tour features a colony of large Iguanas that will come out to greet you...top this off with a swim into Thunderball Cave and lunch at the very rustic Staniel Cay Yacht Club and you have had a spectacular day in the Exuma Out Islands. You can call the hotel 1-800-525-2210 and when making hotel reservations ask about the various boat tours available.

The 63rd annual Family Island Regatta is slated for April 26-30 (started By American Linton Riggs in 1954). it's a wild time of sailing in Bahamian built, owned and crewed wooden sloops constructed to recognize the wonderful old island fishing and trading boats of bygone days. The famous Bahamian Police Band performs every year to rave notices....Sorry! No room availability at the Peace and Plenty as the sailing crowd from Nassau book one year to the next.

EXUMA FOUNDATION



The Exuma Foundation (originally started by the late Stan Benjamin, Owner of the Peace and Plenty) had its annual General Meeting dinner last night at the hotel and enjoyed an evening of music provided by the local Exuma Youth Marching Band.. The Foundation boasts three separate non-profit entities...

The Bahamaian Foundation, the U.S. Foundation and now the Canadian Foundation...the latter two receive full allowable tax benefits for donations.

The Foundation is housed in multiple buildings (class rooms, dormitory rooms, and allied buildings) on six acres of land a few miles west of George Town. Some of the Foundation's interests and efforts include Environmental Assistance; Children's Special Needs classes; encouragement and distribution of agricultural products such as a recent 60 Breadfruit trees to farmers and residents; computer training and many other Assistance programs. Anyone interested in making a charitable contribution may call 242- 336-2790 and ask for Chris Kattel.

The Peace and Plenty escaped without any major damage last fall when Hurricane Joaquin struck nearby Long Island. We only lost the dock which is currently under refurbishing. Fortunately, we had no down time and opened the next day.

We lost our rights to our leased beach club on Stocking Island when the land was sold by the owner Flagler College. We are happy to note that 'Big D' of conch salad fame has secured a parcel of land on Elizabeth Harbor under the monument. Big D advises he is building a Cabana style Beach Club with new dock, and will offer his celebrated conch salad and conch burgers, hamburgers and tropical drinks with his extensive menu. A clean beach and trails to the Exuma Sound side of Stocking Island will be properly maintained. Guests of the Peace and Plenty will have the option of Packages containing boat service, food and drinkand of course, signing privileges for our hotel guests. Big D said the club should be ready for next winter season.

The hotel is currently preparing to offer Androsia shirts, with Peace and Plenty logo, for sale shortly. Our logo material will also be available for those that wish to make their own shirts, dresses and such.

Barry Benjamin's fabulous coffee table pictorial book is in stock at the hotel at a discounted \$25.00. If you are interested in the people of the Out Islands...a vanishing breed as we progress into the 21 century...now is the time to secure your copy.

Charlie Pflueger's biographical 400 page 'Island Fever' book sold well at the hotel and is also available at Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble (for those who have a Kindle or a Nook can get the electronic copy for \$2.99). Lot of the book is Charlie's adventures as GM of the Peace and Plenty over 40 years.

PHYLLIS HELEN THERESA MINNS SCOTT'S STORY OF THE HOUSE SHE GREW UP IN

May 28, 2011

To The Proprietor/Owner
Peace and Plenty Hotel
George Town, Exuma

Dir Sirs,

On January 17th, 2008, you celebrated 50 years as a hotel. I would have been there had illness in the family not prevented it. I actually wrote this letter than but I never sent it to you. I have decided to do so now.

Last year in May, my husband and I came to George Town bringing along one of our grandsons and his new wife. He of course wanted to see the house where his grammy was born and the Island where I spent my childhood. I was able to show them and describe what it was like to live in this home. The building which is now your bar was our "Outside kitchen" where most of the cooking and baking was done. It also doubled as the laundry as did most of such buildings in the early days on the islands and indeed many other countries. I visited one such building when I toured Mt. Vernon, George Washington's home. I showed Kyle and his wife where we used to pull our boats up for repairs and painting. The boat ramp is still there under your dock. I used to run down the back yard and jump over for swimming and I also liked to fish there.

At the time of your celebration a plaque was placed stating that the building was a former "Sponge Shed" – this is not the true history of the house that was built by my father, Mr. Robert Samuel Benedict Minns. It is true that at one time there had been a sponge shed on the property. My father bought the property in 1900. He had moved to Exuma from Nassau around 1897 or there about. He built the home on the foundation of the old shed. His first wife was Alice Bowe and of several children only one survived, my half-brother Nigel Bruce Greville Mimms. After her death my father married my mother. Three of Nigel's children have moved back to George Town and are owners and operators of Exuma Markets. My brother, Mr. Basil Minns, has also returned to Exuma and is the owner of Minns Watersports across the road from you. My mother was Melissa Christine Cartwright whose ancestor Nicholas Martin Algren came to Exuma in 1781 originally from Stockholm, Sweden. Mr. Algren along with Loyalists living in Exuma founded the town. My parents had five children. I am the third of these children. My name is Phyllis Helen Theresa Minns Scott. I live in Clermont, Florida.

After the death of my father in February, 1948, my mother sold the property later in the year and we moved to Nassau. The house was later sold to a Mr. Linten Rigg. He hired a housekeeper named Annie. My parents took her as a little girl at the request of her mother and brought her up. Knowing this, Mr. Rigg asked Annie what she remembered about this house, she thought a minute then said "what I remember most about this house is that it was a place of peace and plenty." That's it, Peace and Plenty it shall be.

There is much I can tell you of the many people who were given shelter and entertained in our home. One notable person was the celebrated opera singer Lilly Pons who came to Tea one afternoon. During WW II many of the young men from the U.S. Naval Station including the Commanding Officers (there were several) often visited in our home. I was a child but I remember it all very well.

The building also housed the only General Store in George Town. My daddy sold everything from hald penny nails to food, fabrics, shoed to fine lace. At the back of the store was daddy's Study/Library. As a child I spent many happy hours choosing and reading many books. We also owned property on Stocking Island including the piece now owned by Peace and Plenty. My mother sold it to the hotel sometime after it was established.

We had many wonderful picnics, etc. on those beautiful beaches and when I visit George Town all of the memories of my childhood come flooding back. I feel that there should be something of this history in your hotel. Some years ago my husband and I visited there and I took him down to the dock that was there at the time and I could plainly see where our boats used to be hauled up. A young couple sitting by the pool overheard us talking about these things and they said to me, "You seem to know a lot about this place, where are you from"? I told them that I was born in this house and lived here until I was sixteen years old, that I married my husband (who is from Wichita, Kansas) and live in Florida. I told them some of the history of the house and they were fascinated and said "Why isn't something written about this? We would love to have IT to take home with us." I do believe that your guests would really like to be able to do this.

We have told our friends about your hotel and some of them have visited and they came because they had heard about my being born and growing up there.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Helen Theresa Minns Scott

Phyllis Helen Theresa Minns Scott

LET'S FLY AWAY

Want to fly to Exuma? Here are the airlines that serve Exuma International Airport (GGT):

- American Airlines daily out of Miami... jet. Takes under an hour.
- Delta Airlines Wed and Sun...Jet out of Atlanta
- Air Canada jet...out of Toronto
- Bahamasair turbo-prop Saab twice daily out of Nassau
- Sky Bahamas turbo-prop...daily out of Nassau
- Silverair...turbo-prop.... seasonal...out of Ft. Lauderdale...15% fare Discount for Peace and Plenty guests on each way on one way fares. When booking use code 'Peace 15'.

Every year for over 25 years Robert Nesbitt has had his large family come to Exuma and stay a week at the Peace and Plenty.... Sadly he passed away last fall at the age of 89....The good news is the family is back to celebrate his life and remember all the great times together at the Peace and Plenty....We will surely always remember our dear friend and his love for his family and Exuma.

Another friend of ours and the Peace and Plenty is Leo McDonald and his lovely wife. He is an attorney from St. Louis and has brought his considerable family down to stay with us for the last 40 years. We look forward to their visits. This year Leo is working on a WWII novel and from what I heard...it's going to be a best seller. Hurry-up and finish Leo...I can't wait to read it.

We couldn't conclude our newsletter without a recipe from Jeanne Benjamin's island cook book 'Great Exuma - Great Food:'

West Indian Barbecued Bananas

Use firm bananas. Slit skins along the side and grill in the skins until charred and soft. Open out the skins and use as a plate and serve with lime slices and a sprinkling of rum and sugar.

OWNERS BARRY & DAVID, MGR MAGNOLIA, CHARLIE AND THE STAFF OF THE PEACE AND PLENTY SEND WARMEST REGARDS AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT VISIT!