

CARIBBEAN LITERACY LEADERS



2024 REPORT



Caribbean Islands

- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Grenada
- Jamaica
- St Vincent & The Grenadines
- Trinidad & Tobago

CIDCAR

**Each of us can make a
difference. Together we
make change.**

Barbara Mulski



Table of Contents



- **CIDCAR Meeting[SLIDES 5-16](#)**
- **Bahamas.....[SLIDES 17-28](#)**
- **Barbados[SLIDES 29-40](#)**
- **Grenada[SLIDES 41-42](#)**
- **St Vincent & The Grenadines[SLIDES 43-57](#)**
- **Trinidad & Tobago.....[SLIDES 58-64](#)**

CIDCAR Members on Mission 2024



CIDCAR Meeting 2024

The Committee for International Development in the Caribbean met in St. Vincent at the Alexandrina Hotel from 11 August 2024 to 16 August 2024 to conduct its business meeting and to take part in a humanitarian mission to St. Vincent and the Grenadines following the devastation of Hurricane Beryl.

[contents](#)



The Committee visited shelters on the mainland and Bequia and offered psychosocial support through literacy activities, the distribution of books, and facilitating professional development for teachers in St. Vincent.

Five territories were represented:

Bahamas

Barbados

Grenada

St Vincent & The Grenadines

Trinidad & Tobago

[contents](#)

Majella (Delegate-Trinidad & Tobago) offering remarks to the audience. Day one of visits to shelters. 12 August 2024





Day Two of Shelter Visits

[contents](#)



Professional Development Session

Committee for International Development in the Caribbean (CIDCAR)

Humanitarian Mission: Wednesday August 14, 2024

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Tamara Borrow

Theme: Psychosocial Support Through Literacy

Registration

9:00 – 9:15

Devotion

Mrs. Edmira Walker

National Anthem

Dr. Shara Ollivierre-Stewart

9:15 – 9:30

Welcome and Opening Remarks

CIDCAR Chair - Mrs. Joycelyn Blake-Browne

[contents](#)

9:30 – 9:45

Introduction and Solidarity Greetings from Regional Delegates

Bahamas

Dr. Ruth Sumner

Barbados

Ms. Sharon Warner

Grenada

Mrs. Marilyn Munroe-Francis

Mrs. Sandra Thomas

Trinidad &

Mrs. Majella Piper

Tobago

St. Vincent

Mrs. Albena Samuel Jack

and the Grenadines

Mrs. Joycelyn Blake-Browne

CIDCAR Mission 2024



Shelter at DR. J. P. Eustace Memorial

CIDCAR Mission 2024



Shelter at Kingstown Government

Calliaqua Anglican



Shelter at Georgetown Secondary



Shelter at Bequia Anglican



CIDCAR Members and Government Officials





President-Dr Ruth Sumner

Bahamas

[contents](#)

Bahamas Literacy Association

Annual Report – 2024

Title: Bahamas Literacy Association: Year in Review 2024

-Subtitle: A Journey of Promoting Literacy and Empowerment

- Presented by: Dr Ruth Sumner, President

- Date: August 12 , 2024

---Introduction

- Overview of the Bahamas Literacy Association

Brief history and mission

The Bahamas Literacy Association (BLA) was created to foster literacy development and improvement in The Bahamas. As a member of The Committee for International Development in the Caribbean (CIDCAR) and an affiliate of the International Literacy Association (ILA), the Association aims to

- Develop and implement literacy programmes that meet the needs of all students in public schools across The Bahamas
- Offer opportunities for stakeholders in the educational community to recognize the significance of data-driven decision-making in literacy
- Form collaborative partnerships with public and private entities to enhance the national literacy rate
- Encourage and develop essential transferable skills in critical thinking and reading that are applicable across all subject areas in the curriculum

- Importance of literacy in The Bahamas

In an archipelagic nation, we find that there are many drawbacks. Not all schools are equal and not all islands receive the necessary resources or experience the same kind of success. Many students have fallen through the cracks and the country experienced much learning loss during COVID-19.

BLA is committed to assisting as many persons as possible in order to improve the literacy rate in the country.

- Key objectives for the year

This year, we had planned a number of events:

- Quarterly Book-Club
- Annual Diagnostic Reading Assessment (August each year)
- Annual Read, Sip and Paint event for children and our first for adults
- Train the Trainers workshops (Ongoing)
- International Literacy Day Activities (September 8, 2024)
- Biannual Literacy Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony (October 2024)
- Professional Development for teachers (Ongoing)
- One Eleuthera Literacy Project (April. Initial event, ongoing)
- Literacy Speech, Essay, Poetry & Slogan Competition (October)
- One Eleuthera Project 2nd phase (Train the Trainers, November 2024)
- Literacy festival (Tentative Fundraiser)

Major Literacy Initiatives and Programmes

- Community Literacy Programmes
- One Eleuthera Project
- Diagnostic Assessment (in New Providence)
- Read, Sip & Paint (open to the public children and adults in New Providence)
 - Summary of outreach programs in various communities
 - Number of participants and key outcomes
- ****School Partnership Initiatives****
 - Collaboration with schools to enhance literacy education
 - Success stories or case studies from schools involved

Special Events and Workshops

- National Literacy Week
 - Activities organized (e.g., reading marathons, book fairs)
 - Public engagement and media coverage
 - Workshops for Educators and Parents
 - Focus areas: reading strategies, supporting struggling readers, etc.
 - Feedback and impact on teaching practices
- Literacy Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns

- Social Media Campaigns
 - Effective in raising awareness about literacy issues
 - Active Facebook Page
 - Webpage
 - WhatsApp groups
 - Appeared on the Spence Finlayson show Immediate Response, Interviewed by ZNS
 - Presented at East Nassau Rotary Club on several occasions
 - Met with the Minister and Director of Education
 - Quarterly Newsletter

Partnership and Collaboration

- Local and International Partners
 - List of key partners and their contributions
 - One Eleuthera Project/Sponsorship/Partnership Literacy Project in South Eleuthera (Six primary and secondary schools)
 - East Nassau Rotary Club Sponsorship/ Partnership Annual Read, Sip & Pain has held our third annual event)
- Impact of collaborations on the Association's activities
- Community Involvement/Collaboration with various schools
 - Excellent participation from children, parents and adults
 - Engagement of volunteers
 - BLA members, Rotary Club members, and volunteers from the general community
 - Success stories from community involvement
 - Events well attended and asking for other initiatives as well
 - Workshops for potential tutors and parents

Achievements and Milestones

Once the intervention programmes are completed, we will determine if the literacy rates would have improved or if there were any other measurable impacts.

- Awards or recognitions received
 - Minister and Director of Education praised us for the work we were doing and asked us to assist them in closing the learning gap and raising the literacy level in the country.
- Significant moments or breakthroughs during the year
 - Overwhelming support and inquiries about the association and volunteers coming forth and offering their assistance
- Long-term impact on the literacy landscape in the Bahamas
 - That there will be an overall improvement in the literacy rate nationally
 - There will be an increase in life-long learners and readers
 - National exams results will improve

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges Faced

- Funding and resource limitations
- Overcoming logistical and outreach difficulties
 - Finding a permanent home as a base
 - Securing sufficient, necessary resources and volunteers throughout the islands to assist and to carry out successful programmes
 - Have persons within the association who are able to write grants and sponsorship proposals to assist with funding our initiatives

- Lessons Learned

- Insights gained from program implementation
It is a slow and painstaking process to realize any success.

Being a volunteer organisation means that you have to depend solely on the good will of those who offer to serve. Volunteerism is not as common as it used to be.

- Strategies for improvement in the coming years

Future Plans and Goals

- Expansion of programs and initiatives; Phase 11 One Eleuthera Project
 - Move on to Cat Island where we have been asked for our assistance in providing tutoring for adults. We need to secure funding/sponsorship.
- Continue with the intervention programmes in New Providence
 - New target areas or demographics
 - Upcoming Events
 - Planned events or activities for the upcoming year
 - Opportunities for involvement or partnership
 - Seek to partner with other organizations and institutions
 - Continue with fundraising
 - Try to find a space where we can secure our resources and equipment

- Summary of Key Points/Success and Challenges

1. We are now fully functioning.
2. Have received some grants.
3. The One Eleuthera Literacy Project has started and is ongoing.
4. Completed diagnostic assessment and pilot intervention programme has started.
5. Examine how stakeholders can support the BLA's mission.
6. Anyone willing to tutor children or adults can volunteer their time. (Training will be available.)
7. Corporate partners can sponsor events, programmes, or provide funding for the administration of BLA

Contact information and ways to get involved:

Contact Dr. Ruth Sumner, President

Phone: 1242-477-0597 or 1-242-376-0747

Email: rlsumner@yahoo.com

Thank You

Book Club Presentations September 2024

[contents](#)





President-Sandie Field-Kellman

Barbados

[contents](#)



BARBADOS ASSOCIATION OF READING 2024-2025

[contents](#)

The Barbados Association of Reading (BAR) was established to ensure that reading plays its role in the educational and recreational advancement of the citizens and residents of Barbados. It was originally started in the 90s, and now is in its tenth year of renewal.

Initially, its primary aim was to develop a programme of training aimed at upgrading the skills of its members and focused on producing a wide variety of teaching apparatus and games, but now its area of operations has expanded to include the following:

- Training persons to teach reading
- Hosting professional development sessions for the general public
- Delivering speeches to community groups
- Sourcing and presenting books to book clubs that cater to adolescent readers

At present, the membership of BAR is not limited to teachers, but is open to members of the community who may have an interest in reading and literacy education. It is a partner with the International Literacy Association and is also a member of CIDCAR, the Caribbean International Development Committee of Associations of Reading. Today its membership is approaching 100.

The Barbados Association of Reading works with many governmental and nongovernmental groups to operationalise its motto: Building a Nation of Readers

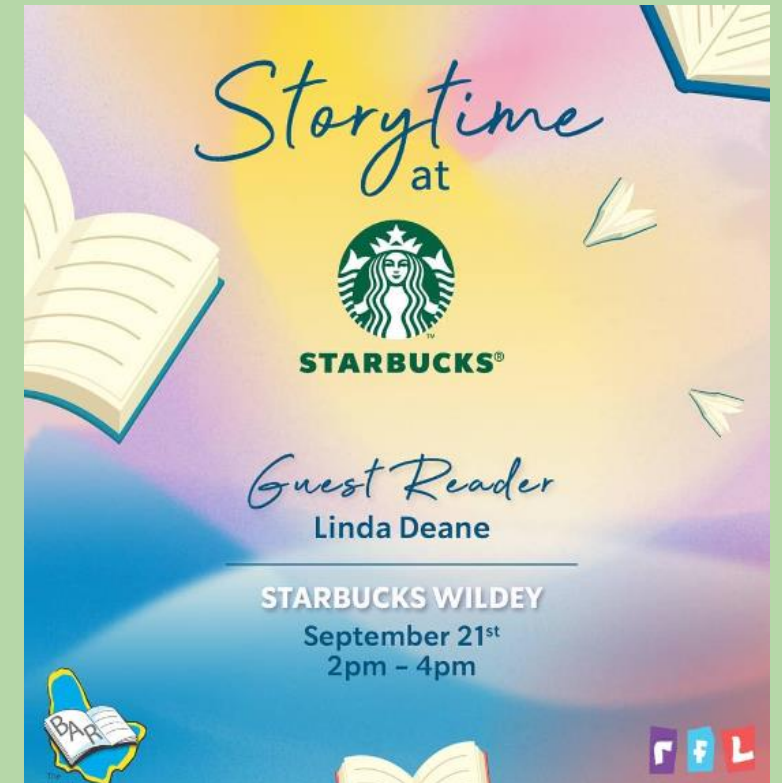
It plans to maintain its professional development sessions and to increase its visibility by hosting a number of Know your Association Initiatives such as an IG Competition.



Reading Clinic JULY-AUGUST 2024



Barbados Association of Reading in Conjunction with Read for Life



International Literacy Day 2024

Appearance on the Television Show: Good Morning Barbados





Relaunch of Teaching Reading Made Simple

19 October 2024-11
January 2025

Professional Development Session

Oral Reading Fluency
and its Correlation
With Reading
Comprehension.
November 2024

Reading
Difficulties From
Vision Problems.
December 2024

[contents](#)

Professional Development Session



JANUARY 2025

[contents](#)

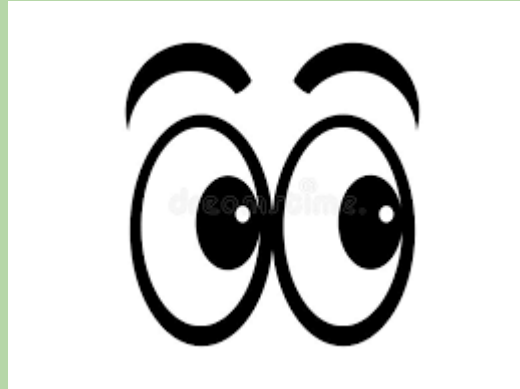
Professional Development Session

Presentation Skills for Authors

FEBRUARY 2025



Clarifying the Teaching of Reading: A Look at What Science Says



Professional
Development
Session - MARCH
2025



Representative Marilyn Munro-Francis

Grenada

International Day Of Literacy 2024 Message





President-
Albeena Samuel-Jack

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

[contents](#)

[table of contents](#)

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Literacy Association (SVGLA) 2019–24 Report

Prepared by
Albena Samuel–Jack: President
Joycelyn Blake–Browne
Outgoing President: SVGRA
CIDCAR: Representative

The 2019-24 period saw the full resurrection of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Literacy Association (SVGLA). Although we still face challenges, we were able to meet regularly and lend support to schools. We must continue to give thanks to the International Literacy Association (ILA) for continued support to the regional organization and to our outgoing Chairperson Mrs. Joycelyn Blake-Browne for her commitment and enthusiasm in taking CIDCAR forward in spite of the many challenges and for organizing this CIDCAR meetings. SVGLA wishes you the very best in your future endeavours.

Board of Directors

Executive Members

} President: Alben Samuel-Jack

} President-Elect: Edmira Walker

} Vice President: Romeisha David

} Secretary: Alverna Westfield

} Assistant Secretary: Maurisa Johnson

} Treasurer: Erica Stewart

} Public Relations Officer: Fiona Taylor

} Chaplain: Paddi Dick

} Committee Members: Shara Stewart, Asif Dover, Sue-Ann Lewis, Shell-Ann Hall

Sub-committees

- } Professional Development
- } Membership
- } Fundraising
- } Public Relations

SVGLA Meetings

The SVGLA was given permission by the Ministry of Education to meeting every second Thursday and this is now on the official school calendar. This greatly improved regularity and attendance at meetings. Although there is improvement in this area, there is still room for improvement. It is the aim of the association to have some zonal and Zoom meetings to reach more members in the new academic year.

SVGLA Membership

There was a decrease of membership during the period 2019-24. The SVGLA has established a database of all its members. In addition, a membership committee was established to recruit and retain members. The membership stands at 25 with 18 active members.

Previously members were contacted via emails and cell phone calls to remind members about activities. A group chat and Facebook page were set up to assist in this area and share information.

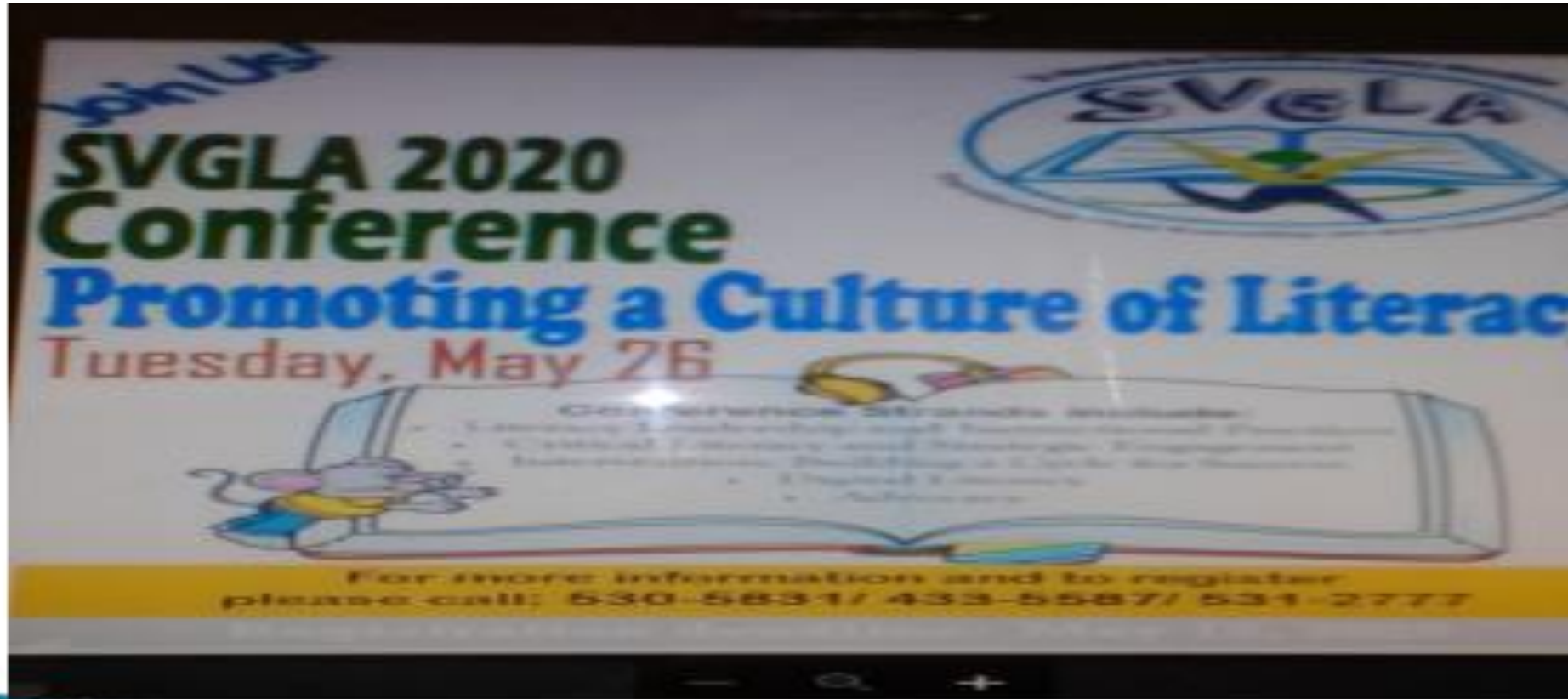
This is still an area of concern, and the membership committee is working on strategic ways to encourage and retain members.

COVID-19 Pandemic

} The COVID-19 pandemic affected normal operations. Covid-19 forced the association to have regular Zoom meetings. This continued even after this period since members live in remote areas. Our first local conference planned for 2020 was deferred and date was still to be finalised.

The full membership was never restored and saw a steady decline. However, since 2022, there has been a slow return to normalcy with regular meetings.

This was our conference invitation



St. Vincent and the Grenadines Book Club Festival



Literacy Awareness Walk



Layout Government School



CWPP Literacy March



Classroom Transformation



Way Forward

The SVGRA will focus on the following:

- Increasing membership by 25%
- Encouraging members to join ILA
- Developing partnership relationships with parenting groups to foster family literacies and special education to ensure that the SENs of all children are met
- Developing a remedial reading programme

Suggested Projects

- Reading Extravaganza: Focus on all learners, book reports; classroom transformation
- Establish zonal literacy communities
- Handbook to teach remedial reading
- Tracking students' reading progress
- Book Club Festival
- Creating resource materials

Events

- Literacy Awareness Walk
- Recruitment of new members (ongoing)
- Fundraising activities
- Visit schools to support literacy activities during literacy months
- Establishment of book clubs at primary, secondary, and community levels
- Workshop: Teacher-made materials to enhance learning
- Ongoing professional development activities
- Summer reading camp
- Writing workshops
- Red carpet event to recognize teachers, students, and schools for literacy performance



President

-Majella Knutt-Piper

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

[contents](#)

[table of contents](#)

Trinidad and Tobago Reading Association

Report for the Year June 2023 to June 2024

The Trinidad and Tobago Reading Association holds monthly meetings on the third Saturday, and these are held virtually as we have not returned to face-to-face meetings since the end of the pandemic.

Our first event for the year was our Annual Read to Me project, held on September 8, 2023, International Literacy Day. This entailed visiting the maternity wards of our major hospitals and distributing packages to mothers. The packages contained a vest with the caption Read to Me for baby, books and a pamphlet explaining the importance of reading and early literacy for the mother.

On February 7, 2024, we participated in World Read Aloud Day by having some of our members visit schools and read aloud for the students. We also produced a video of a member doing a read-aloud which was posted to our Facebook page.

Our flagship event, the Easter Conference, was held on April 4, 2024. This year the theme was Literacy: Special Education and Research, Toolkits for the Twentieth Century Teacher. This event was held virtually as was the previous year. It was a moderate success as there were not as many participants as the previous year.

We continue to partner with the UWI open Campus, where four of our members deliver the curriculum for our certificate course in the teaching of reading.

On the June 1, 2024, we held our first fundraiser, a Sip and Paint, which was moderately successful.

Challenges:

We continue to have difficulty in attracting and retaining membership. At our planned AGM, so few members were present we were unable to proceed as planned. We postponed our AGM and decided to initiate a process of rebranding and re-engagement with the public and our usual stakeholders. This entails renaming the organization to the Trinidad and Tobago Literacy Association, updating our Facebook page, and starting an Instagram account in addition to our Facebook page.

With the introduction of new laws governing NGOs in our country, we are also faced with the task of completing the many procedures which compliance demands, the execution of which is made more difficult by reduction of our members.

At present, we are again preparing for our AGM to be held at the end of September and continuing to search for new ways and avenues to make TTRA as effective and successful as it has been in the past.

Respectfully Submitted,

Majella Knutt-Piper, President

International Literacy Day Message



CIDCAR IN ACTION



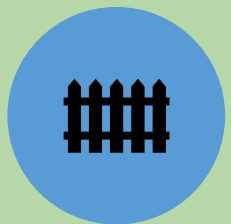
**Strengthening our
resolve**



Growing network



**Providing
comfortable
collaboration spaces**



Breaking barriers



**Having teachers
engaged in research
and practice**

[table of contents](#)

CARIBBEAN LITERACY LEADERS



2024 REPORT

Compiled by Sharon Warner-Chair of CIDCAR and Barbados' Delegate