



PHOTOS BY PAUL WILLIAMS

Time cannot wash away the memories from this enamel goblet and basin.

MEMORIES

CONTINUED FROM 12

many more, eloquently tell what the values and interests of the Brodber family were.

And though it was not my family home, everything evoked some sort of emotion in me, but never nonchalance. But more than anything else, I was enthralled by the kerosene lamps, self-heating irons, enamelled basins, goblets and teapots, trunks, ceramic containers, a wrought-iron meat grinder, etc. I was transported

back to the times when these items were current.

And while it is not regarded as a museum by Dr Brodber, an internationally renowned, multiple-award-winning scholar, educator, author and historian, the Brown House is her private home and doubles as her office.

Operating under the name Blackspace, it also has a little bookshop, a writers' retreat, and spaces for seminars and small conferences. Writers and other artistic persons may rent accommodation to work quietly in the rustic, laid-back setting of the Brown House property, chock-full of memory lanes.



The flowers on this enamel pewter have not faded, nor have the memories associated with it.



Guests from the Sandals Resorts in Negril engage students at the West End Early Childhood Institutions in active reading exercises during the Sandals Foundation Reading Road Trip in May.

A tour for Carib literacy

Island Routes joins Sandals Foundation in taking Literacy Enhancement Programme to Caribbean Schools

THIS 2011-2012 academic year, the world's leading Caribbean attraction company, Island Routes Caribbean Adventure Tours, joins the Sandals Foundation to take Caribbean visitors on a journey to boost literacy in primary and early childhood schools.

The groundbreaking 'voluntourism' initiative, dubbed Reading Road Trip was originally launched by the Sandals Foundation in May 2011, to engage students between ages five and seven in activities geared at improving their literacy, vocabulary and comprehension. Reading Road Trip will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Thursday from September to June in Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, St Lucia, Antigua, and Great Exuma in The Bahamas at a cost of US\$20 per person, for ages 13 years and older. Children between the ages of eight and 12 are complimentary, and all minors must be accompanied by an adult.

"We are very excited about this new education initiative and our partnership with the Sandals Foundation," said David L. Shields, general manager of Island Routes. "Our mandate for our Community Routes programme is to develop tours that get guests involved and contributing – educationally and environmentally – with the contributions benefiting the local community."

Since September 15, Island Routes has been transporting visitors wishing to volunteer from their respective resorts to one of

the foundation's adopted schools. The volunteer has the opportunity to interact with small groups of children in active reading exercises and assist with their reading skills sheets. Staff is on hand to guide participants on how to engage and encourage students. In addition, volunteers are encouraged to bring their own books, whether new or used, to share with the children and donate to the school's library.

IMPORTANT EXERCISE

"We believe this is an important exercise, not only because it gives guests a chance to give back to our communities but because children really benefit from having one-on-one assistance in the learning-to-read phase," said Heidi Clarke, director of programmes at Sandals Foundation. "This initiative is also intended to encourage active listening and comprehension, which will also lead to the children being confident readers themselves," she continued.

Sandals Whitehouse guest, Heather Olson, a past preschool

teacher from Minnesota, who participated in one such reading session last school year, said it was the highlight of her trip. "I would go back every day," she said. "It's amazing how eager the children were to learn. I can now see the vast potential existing in the Jamaican classroom."

Through Island Routes, visitors travelling to the Caribbean now have the option of booking their 'voluntourism' Reading Road Trip via the Island Routes website, the Island Routes call centre, through their travel agent or tour operator or while on-resort. As the initiative grows, the Reading Road Trip is expected to expand to other schools outside of the 26 adopted Sandals Foundation schools across the region.

Since its launch two years ago, the Sandals Foundation has implemented several educational programmes, such as academic scholarships and book drives along with various school-maintenance, upgrades and building efforts.

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