

Open Houses Calendar 2011

About The Speakers

Dr. Henry Fraser, a past President of The Barbados National Trust, is the author of *Historic Houses of Barbados* and *Treasures of Barbados*. Dr. Karl Watson, the Trust's current president, is the editor of the Journal of The Barbados Museum and Historical Society, and author of the forthcoming book, *History of the Sephardic Jews of Barbados*. Both men have credits too numerous to mention and are lively lecturers.

Lively Lectures take place at 3:15 pm.

Elsewhere, St. James

January 12

The splendid book, *Barbados in Bloom*, features this Grand Sandy Lane home under its former name, Dar es Salaam. Built in the 1980s, its style is essentially Middle Eastern. Rushing down terraces through landscaped channels, water is a big motif, in spectacular gardens. Thanks to Altman Real Estate for providing Elsewhere.

Today's talk: Dr. Henry Fraser on the impact of Tourism in Barbados.

DIRECTIONS: from Highway 1 (The West Coast road,) turn inland at The Sandy Crest Medical Centre onto Cemetery Road. Pass the graveyard, and keep right up hill. Look for Open House signs. From Highway 2A, turn onto Bennetts Road by the Sandy Lane sign. At Molyneux Road, turn right and follow Open House signs. Please park only as directed.

Ker Avel , St. James

January 19

Once planted in canes, Polo Ridge now gives its elegant homes a stellar view of the coast. Here, the vista begins as you enter the house. With its atrium and open plan, Ker Avel blurs the line between indoor and outdoor living. Jenny Blanc did the interior to suit both adults and children. Ker Avel is opened compliments of the owners and Realtors Ltd.

Today's Talk: Dr. Karl Watson on the Human Geography of the West Coast.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 1, turn inland up Holders Hill (opposite Daphne's.) About 1 km later, turn left into Polo Ridge

Fisherpond House, St. Thomas

January 26

This 300-year old mansion sat empty for years until John Chandler's magic touch transformed it to the jewel it is today. Built of rubble stone in Caribbean Georgian style, it was later extended with an enclosed gallery. It is now beautifully filled with antiques, paintings, and *objects d'art*. With a magnificent dining table for 24, it is splendid for planter's lunches and private parties, for which the Chandlers are renowned hosts.

Today's talk: Dr. Henry Fraser on Agricultural Land and "Development Kings."

DIRECTIONS: Fisherpond Plantation House is off Highway 3 in St. Thomas, shortly before you get to Andrews Sugar Factory in St. Joseph. *Look for our signs.*

Hopefield Manor, Christ Church

February 2

A fine, classically designed Barbadian house built in 1831 and filled with artwork and well-preserved antiques. It is now home to Sir David Seale and Lady Seale, of R.L. Seale and Co, Ltd. They also own the nearby Foursquare Rum Distillery and Heritage Park. Prepare to stroll; the gardens are expansive and beautiful, and even the stables are impressive. So are their occupants; the Hopefield horses have won at least 5 Cockspur Gold Cups!

Today's Talk: Dr. Henry Fraser on Rum.

DIRECTIONS: Hopefield Manor can be reached from the ABC Highway. Just before the airport, turn left at Charnocks and follow the road to the junction. *Turn right and watch for Open House signs.*

Porters Great House, St. James

February 9th

Built in 1735, this truly magnificent and stately house was for many years the Barbados estate of Martogh Guinness. The magic begins as you drive through its mahogany woods to be greeted by the stately house which has its own private chapel. Looking eastwards across extensive grounds, the hilltop is graced with a domed folly from where the view west towards the house is unparalleled. The house is opened this afternoon courtesy of Altman Real Estate.

DIRECTIONS: Porters is located on Highway 1 (One), north of Holetown. Its entrance is at the turn-off to Royal Westmoreland, opposite Colony Club. Off Highway 2A, turn off at the Royal Westmoreland junction and travel downhill past Sugar Hill going toward Highway 1 (One). *Look for Open House signs.*

Congo Road Plantation, St. Philip

Monday February 14

Sprawling grounds, a lovely old home and outbuildings, and an equestrian centre are only part of the attraction. The main event is a rare exhibition of the world's best Sailors' Valentines, elaborate shell mementos that originated in Barbados in the mid 19th century. Here at Congo Road, the art form has not only been revived by our hostess, but has reached a new zenith. Overseas "Valentiners" have brought their masterpieces, too.

DIRECTIONS: From the ABC Highway, turn east at the Emancipation statue on to h/way 5 and continue to Six Cross Roads, St. Philip. At the roundabout there, take the second left and follow Open House signs.

Reed Court, Pine Hill

February 23rd

Set amidst acres of well manicured lawns, trees and shrubs. Reed Court is The Grand Lady of Pine Hill. This afternoon, the home will be partially furnished but let your imagination run wild and you can provide the other furnishings. Reed Court's neighbours include the British High Commissioner's residence, the Canadian High Commissioner's residence, the Governor of the Central Bank residence and the magnificent Governor General's residence. Owned by the Leo Leacock family, this home this afternoon is opened courtesy of Altman Real Estate.

DIRECTIONS: Find your way to Government House, the Governor General's residence. St. Winifred's School is next door. Look for our Open House signs. Signage and parking attendants will direct you where to park.

Sunday Special:
The Synagogue and Nidhe Isreal Museum, Bridgetown

February 27

By 1654, Sephardic Jews in Barbados had consecrated Nidhe Israel, one of the two earliest temples in the Western Hemisphere. This architectural jewel shares a walled urban sanctuary with a stylish and engaging museum, an intriguing cemetery, and a spring-fed mikvah (ritual bath) whose recent discovery 12 feet underground is of tremendous historical importance. The whole atmosphere is mystical.

Today's Talk: Dr. Karl Watson shares excerpts from his forthcoming book, History of The Sephardic Jews of Barbados.

DIRECTIONS: Take High Street, which runs beside Parliament, turn left at James Street and follow our signs. Parking is opposite the Central Police Station on James Street.

Pollard's Mill, St. Philip

March 2

Pollards Mill combines the best of old and new. Built circa 1722, the spacious old stone property has had many lives: as a plantation, a hotel, and a fine restaurant. A series of renovations exposed its coral-stone walls and imparted a Scandinavian ambience of light and space. The effect is stunning. The house, cottage and mill wall are surrounded by 2.5 acres of gardens.

Today's Talk: Dr. Kaarl Watson discusses a nearby landmark in The Life and Death of Sam Lord's Castle.

DIRECTIONS: Follow ABC Highway to the Emancipation Statue. Turn on to Highway 5 heading East to St Philip. At Six Cross roads roundabout take first left fork to St Philip's Parish Church. Turn right at the triangular "T" junction and continue along this road. *Follow Open House signs.*

FRIDAY NIGHT March 4 There will be a "Headdress/Mask" Carnival-type fund raising event at George Washington House, The Garrison. More information later, but keep this date open!

Gun Hill by Moonlight, our cocktail parties with a view, are scheduled for Friday 21st January, Friday 18th February, Friday 18th March, Friday April 15 and Friday May 20, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:30. Call 426-2421 for more information.

Manager's House, Jordan's Plantation, St. George

March 9

Sometimes obscurity produces wonderful surprises. This may be the case at Jordan's Manager's House. Now under renovation, this is a fascinating glimpse of a work in progress.

DIRECTIONS: From the ABC Highway, turn East at the Norman Niles roundabout onto Highway 4. At the tiny roundabout, keep left and pass St. George Secondary School. At the T junction, go right on 4B, and start looking on the left for the turnoff to Jordans soon afterwards.

Foster Lodge, St. George

March 16

This beautifully proportioned plantation house was built in the early 19th century and has a rich history. Purchased in 1976 by Brian and Sandra Parsons, now Baron and Lady of Ormiston, it has been sensitively updated and lovingly maintained over the years. A collection of crystal, silver, furniture, and Mrs. Parsons' personal paintings add to the ambience of historical continuity.

Today's talk: Dr. Henry Fraser on Caribbean Georgian Architecture.

DIRECTIONS: Make your way to Norman Niles Roundabout on the ABC Highway and get onto highway 4. Going East, make the left at The Salters/Haggat Hall junction which takes you to Gun Hill. At Charles Rowe Bridge with Chefette on your left keep straight ahead keeping the gas station on your right, continue straight ahead and watch for Open House signs and parking.

**Chummary, Sandy Lane, St. James
Compliments A&B Reality**

March 23

Chummary is one of the charming villas in the Sandy Lane estate. It was built in the 1970's as a vacation home of the chairmen of Macy's and RCA. The bedrooms overlook a splendid pool while the drawing and dining rooms open onto an elegant verandah and inner court yard.

DIRECTIONS: Turn into the Sandy Lane Estate across from the entrance of the hotel and follow the road up the hill to West Ridge Road. Turn right and follow the road to the left. Chummary is on the left.

Wildey House, St. Michael

March 30

Our headquarters, Wildey House is a classic Georgian style mansion, thought to have been built around 1760. It was last owned by the Leacock family, who bequeathed it to the Trust. The house has been carefully restored and its ground floor is furnished with The Leaocks' antiques. Offices occupy the former bedrooms upstairs.

Today's talk: Dr. Henry Fraser tells you about Wildey House and its furnishings.

DIRECTIONS : On the ABC Highway, go south from the Bussa (Emancipation) roundabout, and after the Polytechnic's tiny roundabout, get into the right lane. Pass Cable & Wireless, turn right at the junction by the gas station. Turn right again just after the next gas station and ease into the left lane. Wildey House is up the hill at the first left.

Admission: Your entrance fee gives you access to the house as well as provides you with historical and architectural information which you can take home with you as a souvenir.

ADULTS: US \$10

CHILDREN (5-12 years) – US \$5

CHILDREN (under 5) – FREE

BARP Members – US \$7.50

Members of The Barbados National Trust, reciprocating Trusts and Societies (including the National Trusts of Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, and certain heritage societies of the USA and Canada) **US \$5 on presentation of membership card.**

Dress: Nicely casual, comfortable tropical clothing.

