



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome!

On behalf of Alscess Lewis-Brown and the members of the Virgin Islands Literary Festival Committee and Book Fair (VILitFest), we bid you welcome to the U.S. Virgin Islands and specifically to the 2019 VILitFest celebration.

This gathering has its genesis in an experience that I had at Anguilla's First Lit Fest. Some of my colleagues in Anguilla invited me to their festival and, while I was there, I met my compadre, Lasana Sekou. He, in turn, invited me to the St. Martin Literary Festival as one of thirteen authors from around the world. I was so impressed with what these two countries were doing that I promised them to do something similar in the USVI. At that time, I was the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS).

Upon my return to St. Croix, on the heel of my experiences from the two festivals, I enticed a few of my colleagues to join me in creating what is now the Virgin Islands Literary Festival and Book Fair (VILitFest). Over the last five years, Alscess Lewis-Brown has been the key voice behind the continuity of the VILitFest. Ms. Dian Gréaux-Levons, Yvette McMahon-Arnold and many others have put in stellar efforts to keep the festival alive, and it is a pleasure to see there are also new members who have joined the committee.

Many colleagues, as well as friends with whom I worked in the Government of the USVI, as well as other business associates, gave critical support — financial and otherwise — to enable us to get off the ground in the first two years and continue to be proud sponsors of this initiative.

The UVI community has been a star in the assistance to the VILitFest from the beginning. Having the festival at this venue, my Alma Mater, makes me proud, as we look forward to a continued collaboration.

I have not been able to participate at the level I would have liked, given that I suffered a stroke in 2016; but let it be known that I am continually informed of the progress of these events and the VILitFest Committee has my full support.

Peace and love. Keep the literary flames aloft. It is an honor to serve.

Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson

Chair, VILitFest Committee

VI Literary Festival & Book Fair
April 10 – 13, 2019
Musings and Metaphors: Revolution, Evolution and
Devolution(READ)
PROGRAM

GUESTS ARRIVE

Wednesday, April 10

SCHOOL WRITERS' RENDEZVOUS

UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus ~ The Great Hall

9 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Mistress of Ceremonies: Yvette McMahon- Arnold,
State Director of Curriculum

Welcome: Valrica Bryson, Director, Division of Cultural
Education

Remarks: District Superintendent of Schools

Opening Performance: Tenor Pan Soloist Kevin Williams

Introduction of Speaker:

Featured Speaker: Professor Cadwell Turnbull

Interactive: *"Using Experiences to Color your Story"*

Student Writers and Artists Competition: Poetry &
Prose and other works of art

Moderator: Prof. Sharon Charles, Ed.D.

LUNCH

1:00 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

Performance Poetry: From Imagination to Stage

Room NWW #102

Biko McMillan, Poet

Moderator: Geron Richards, Author, Teacher

1:00 p.m. - 1:40 p.m..

Getting Started as a Writer

Room NWW #103

Prof. Cadwell Turnbull, Ph.D.

Moderator: Jana Austrie, Winner of 2018 VILF Student

Writers' Competition

1:00 p.m. - 1:40 p.m

Self Publishing: A Writer's Option

Room EVC #308

Presenter: Author Cassandra Ulrich
Moderator: Ajahni Estrada, UVI Student

1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Awards Presentation: Acknowledgement of School Writers' Presentations
Room: *The Great Hall*

2:35 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks & **DISMISSAL**

Thursday, April 11

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION

UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus ~ The Great Hall

Coordinator: Yvette McMahon-Arnold
(Campus satellite for authors will be Green Room at CES)

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Author Cavalcade Into Schools

"Identity and Literature"

A team of authors and speakers take a literary journey into public schools as well as to the Youth Rehabilitation Center to engage in interactive workshops and talks.

Deng Thiak Adut
Patricia Harkins-Pieere
Ellen Foster
Apple Gidley
Fartein Horgar
Rozena Maart
Biko McMillan
Denene Milner
Cadwell Turnbull
Cassandra Ulrich
Clement White
Yona Des Homme

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Meet & Greet Reception

Venue: Company House Hotel
Mistress of Ceremonies: Camille McKayle, Ph.D., Provost
Introduction of Authors & Greetings

Mix & Mingle

Music by Author and Central High School Band Teacher Stan Joins and Author, Pianist Otis L. Gibbs



8:40 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, April 12

A Taste of St. Croix Through Christiansted Town

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

REGISTRATION

Venue: UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus Great Hall

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION

Mistress of Ceremony: Kimarie Engerman, Ph.D., Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS)

SPEAKERS

Education Asst Commissioner Maria Encarnacion

Tourism Commissioner Hon. Joe Boschulte

UVI President Dr. David Hall

Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett

Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands Hon. Albert Bryan, Jr.

9:35 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Deng Thiak Adut, author and inspirational speaker

“Musings and Metaphors: Revolution, Evolution and Devolution” (READ)

Introduction: Alscess Lewis-Brown, Author & VI LitFest Program Chair

10:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

A Decade of Change: A Conversation around the Evolution of Neighborhoods and Communities within the Virgin Islands and Beyond-- A Context for Writers

Room: *The Great Hall*

Moderator: Gerard Emanuel

Panellists: Nadine Machena-Kean, Karen Thurland, Ph.D., Clement White, Ph. D., Talk Show Host and Community Activist Mario Moorehead.

10:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Innovation by Design: From Inspiration to Publication
an interactive workshop for aspiring, and well-established, creative writers.

Room: EVC 302

Presenters: Dr Ellen Foster and Dr Patricia Harkins-Pierre

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

1:05 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

The Life Cycle of a Manuscript

Room NWW #102

Presenters: Yona Deshommes, Associate Director of Publicity – Atria Books (an Imprint of Simon and Schuster)

Moderator: Patricia Harkins-Pierre, Ph. D.

1:05 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Musings of Another Community: Strategies for a Writer:
Race, Writing and Difference

Room NWW #103

Presenter: Rozena Maart, award-winning South African Author

Vincent Cooper, Ph.D.

1:05 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

The Sonnet, You and the Caribbean

Room: EVC 308

Presenter: Richard Georges, award-winning author and poet from the British Virgin Islands

Moderator: Aminah Saleem

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Strategies for Giving Voice to History and Culture

Room: NWW #102

Presenter: Emily Williams, author and professor

Moderator: Dimitri Copemann

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Preserving Heritage: How the Literature Helps, Heals and Hurts

Room: NWW 103

Presenter: **Lewis Gordon, Ph.D., and Paget Henry, Ph.D.**

Moderator: Chenzira Kahina, Ph.D.

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

A Journey with Plantation Ghosts of Norway/Denmark: A Colonial Perspective

Room: EVC 308

Presenter: **Fartein Horgar, author and scholar from Norway**

Moderator: Tiphonie Yanique

EVENING PROGRAM

5 p.m. - 10 p.m.



Book Bacchanal (Coordinator: Prof. Janis Valmond, Ph.D.)

Sponsor: Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts (CMCA)

Featuring: “Sweet Noise”

Author Readings/ Book Signings:

Deng Thiak Adut

Danica David

Richard Georges

Fartein Horgar

Rozena Maart

Denene Milner

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Moko Jumbi

Cedelle Petersen–Christopher (Cariso)

“Finding Paradise” by Marvin Williams---a poetic interpretation from TCW by Music in Motion/John H.

Woodsen students-- narrated by Dr. Chenzira Kahina

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

BOOK LAUNCHES

A Stitch and Time by Kim Lyons

Tradesmen of St. Croix: U.S.V.I by Karen Thurland, Ph.D.

What A Difference a Change Makes! by Sheree Sekou, Ph.D.

The Eighth Flag by Stan Joins

We are Music Stars by Shanda Ramnarine and Otis L. Gibbs

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Book Sales/ Signings

Author Readings and Sharing

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Open Mic Poetry

Moderator: Biko McMillan

Saturday, April 13

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Registration—UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus Great Hall

7:35 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Bush Tea Morning Social

Crucian Breakfast

Master of Ceremonies: Eugene Peterson, DVM, musician & author

Central High School Jazz Band

Open Mic Poetry

UVI Choir—*Voices of Love*

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Bush Tea Morning Lecture: PLENARY

Clement A. White, Ph.D.

Topic: “*Sciatta deh Jumbie Dem an’ Unleash dem Writin’ Muse*”

Theme: *VI Metaphors and Musings: Another Kind of Revolution*

Introduction: Edgar Lake, author & scholar

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Presenter: Dr. Rozena Maart, award winning South African author, international scholar and professor

Introduction: Dr. Lewis Gordon, international scholar, professor, author, musician

10:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(concurrent)

The Children’s Corner---Coordinator,

The Children’s Museum of St. Croix:

Auntie Janice’s Children’s Corner

Venue: (Under the tent on the lawn of the A.S. Campus)

Facilitators: Ellie Hirsh and Winnie “Oyoko” Loving

Readers: *Lieutenant Governor Tregenza Roach*

Bestselling author Denene Milner

Author Charlene Mathew

Authors Shanda Ramnarine and Otis L. Gibbs

Iria Stiles, Special Art Activities

11:20 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

BROWN BAG LUNCH PANEL

Recapturing a Radical Imagination: A Virgin Islands Studies Collective with Tiphonie Yanique, Lavaughn Belle, Tammi Navarro, Hadiya Sewer

Room: *The Great Hall*

Moderator: Vincent Cooper, Ph.D.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

Tips and Strategies for Writing and Publishing Literature for Children

Room NWW #103

Presenter: **Award-winning author Denene Milner**

Moderator: Yvette McMahon-Arnold, State Director for Instruction, VIDE

Creating Meter in Poetry

Room NWW #102

Presenter: **Donna Kilgore, professor and writer**

Moderator: Mary Duggan

1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

UVI Student Authors Forum

Room: *EVC 308*

Moderator: Patricia Harkins-Pierre, Ph. D.,

Judges: Valerie Combie, Ph.D., Donna Kilgore

2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Intersections: Courage, Inspiration and Opportunity

Room: *The Great Hall*

Presenter: **Deng T. Adut, esquire**

Moderator: Nicolas Drayton

3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Race and the Criminal Justice System

Room NWW #103

Presenter: **Margaret Barry, Attorney-at-law**

Moderator: Attorney Emile Henderson

3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

What a Publisher Looks for in the Manuscript: Editing and Preparing the Professional Manuscript

Room: NWW #102

Presenter: **Yona Deshommes, Atria Books**

Moderator: David Gould, Ph.D.

2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Local Agricultural Garden Foods: Preparation, Nutrition--- the Story

Room: EC 302 & 303

Presenter: **Sejah Farms, Inc.**

Cooperative Extension Service Kitchen
Moderators: Camille Paul, Physician Assistant
Tamara Jean Baptiste—Student Nurse

3:55 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

Closing Exercises

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

After-Words: Reading and Mixing with the authors
Venue TBA