THE NATURE ISLAND LITERARY FESTIVAL & BOOK FAIR
5 YEARS
August 10 - 12, 2012
EMANCIPATION CELEBRATIONS

BOOK OPEN STORY JUMP OUT

BLOGS
NOVELS
POEMS
LYRICS
REALITY
AND MORE...

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
GEORGE LAMMING

ENTRANCE TO ALL EVENTS FREE

UWI OPEN CAMPUS, ELMSHALL ROAD

Fort Young Hotel
Ducan G Stowe & Co
George Lamming and Lasana Sekou, guest writers at literary festival in Dominica

ST. MARTIN, Caribbean (August 6, 2012)—George Lamming and Lasana M. Sekou are guest writers of the Nature Island Literary Festival & Book Fair on August 10-12, 2012, according to their publisher, HNP www.houseofnehesipublish.com.

Prof. Lamming, an eminent father of Caribbean literature, will deliver the keynote address at the festival’s fifth anniversary in Roseau, Dominica.

Sovereignty of the Imagination; Language and the Politics of Ethnicity, and Coming, Coming Home - Western Education and the Caribbean Intellectual, both books by George Lamming, will be available at the book fair.

Pelican Heart, a bilingual anthology of Sekou’s poems from 1978 to 2010, edited by the Cuban scholar Emilio Jorge Rodríguez, will be available throughout the weekend. So will be Sekou’s Nativity/Nativité/Natividad, a trilingual poetic epic used as teaching material at UWI-St. Augustine and Birmingham University, UK.

Lamming and Sekou, hailing from Barbados and St. Martin respectively, will read from their works at the UWI Open Campus, the main book fair venue.

Brotherhood of The Spurs, a short stories collection by Sekou, and his music-poetry CD The Salt Reaper will be available at the author’s reading, “especially for the younger generation and lovers and collectors of Caribbean literary works,” said Jacqueline Sample, president of House of Nehesi Publishers (HNP).

On Saturday, at 11:15 AM, Sekou will conduct the workshop on “How to Get Published” with co-facilitator Dr. Irving Andre, said Alwin Bully, a principal of the book fair organization.

Among the some 20 guest participants slated for the Nature Island lit fest are novelists, historians, poets, researchers, publishers, bloggers, and spoken word artists such as Elizabeth Nunez, Lennox Honychurch, Schuyler Esprit, Mervyn Morris, Polly Pattullo, Reseau Poetique Guadeloupe, Jane Ulysses Grell, Adrian Green, Mary Walters, and Roger Bonair-Agard www.dominicalitfest.com/guest_writers.

In addition to literary readings and workshops, there will be discussions, open mic sessions, films, book exhibitions and exchanges, folk music performances, and arts and crafts displays. Entrance to all book fair events are free to the general public.

Caption:
Caribbean authors, L-R: George Lamming (Barbados) and Lasana M. Sekou (St. Martin). (HNP photo)
THE NATURE ISLAND LITERARY FESTIVAL & BOOK FAIR
AUGUST 10 - 12, 2012 UWI OPEN CAMPUS, ELMshall ROAD
ENTRANCE TO ALL EVENTS FREE www.dominicalitfest.com

THURSDAY AUG.9: Pre-event: Word Sound & Power
Anchorage Hotel 7.00 pm with Reseau Poétique Guadeloupe

FRIDAY AUG.10

OPENING CEREMONY

7.00 pm
Arrival of Ag. President His Excellency Dr. E.I. Watty
National Anthem and Praise Song
Welcome by NILF Chair/ Festival Director Dr. Alwin Bully
Remarks by Minister of Tourism and Legal Affairs Hon. Ian Douglas
CHS Choral Speech
Spoken Word Poetry – Roger Bonair Agard
Introduction to Keynote Speaker – Dorothy Leevy
KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PROF. GEORGE LAMMING
The Sisserou Singers
Reseau Poétique Guadeloupe
Opening of Book Fair

10.00 pm AFTER-EVENT: POETRY AT RUINS RESTAURANT

SATURDAY AUG.11

9.00 – 11.00 am WORKSHOPS
Poetry – Prof. Mervyn Morris
(An Approach to writing Poetry)
Fiction – Prof. Elizabeth Nunez
(Writing the novel)

11.15 – 1.15 pm WORKSHOPS
Issues & Ideas – Roger Bonair-Agard & Adrian Green
(Hot topics for Inquiring Minds)
Publishing – Lasane Sekou/Dr. Irving Andre
(How to get published)
Art & Text – Sandra Vivas
(Lecture/Discussion on Innovative Art)
Gwo-ka Drumming - Reseau Poétique Guadeloupe

SUNDAY AUGUST 12

10.00 – 11.15 pm Travellers’ Tales: Dominica as seen by Travel Writers.
PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Lennox Honychurch

11.30 – 12.15 pm J. Ralph Casimir - A Pan-Africanist’s Story:
PowerPoint presentation by Kathy McLean
Open Mic

12.30 – 1.15 pm LUNCH WITH LIVE MUSIC – Venezuelan Cuatro Band
Thunder Bolts: George Lamming, Mervyn Morris,
Elizabeth Nunez

3.30 – 4.30 pm Lightening Strikers: Merle Hodge, Adrian Augier,
Joanne Hillhouse

4.45 – 5.45 pm What’s Freedom Anyway? Panel Discussion on Radio
Journalism & Press Freedom

6.00 – 7.00 pm Rhythm’s Gonna Get You! Opinions on Bouyon
Music and its Lyrics

7.00 – 7.30 pm Bail Fini: Winners, Prizes, Acknowledgements

Duncan G Sieve & Co
Prof. George Lamming (L), Barbados, an eminent father of Caribbean literature, is slated to deliver the keynote address at this year's festival.

Lasana M. Sekou (R), St. Martin, will conduct a workshop on "How to Get Published," along with co-facilitator Dr. Irving Andre.

► Read News Release (PDF)

Irving W. André, PhD is a Dominican, born in Curacao and now resident in Canada. He studied at the University of the West Indies, John Hopkins University and the Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Canada. He was called to the Ontario Bar in 1990 and has practiced in the Crown Attorney’s Office and as a Criminal Defence Lawyer. He was appointed a Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice in Barnton, Ontario, from 2002 and has served as a local Administrative Judge in the Criminal Court from 2010. The Hon. Dr. Justice Andre has attained many achievements during his life time, including being the recipient of the Dominica Sisserou, African Canadian Achievement and Queen Golden Jubilee Awards. He is an author who has compiled eleven books including A Passage to Anywhere and Distant Voices, and biographies of Franklin Baron, Dominica’s first minister; Edward O LeBlanc, the islands first Premier; Dr. Desmond McIntyre, Dominica’s first surgeon; and Charles Maynard, who was Dominica’s Ambassador to CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. He has also collaborated on In Search of Eden which is a social and political analysis of Dominica from 1967 to the present and For King & Country: The Service and Sacrifice of the British West Indian Military.

Adrian Augier is a St Lucian poet, playwright and producer. In 2010 he was a winner of the Anthony N Sagba Caribbean Awards for Excellence. A co-founder of two theatre companies in St Lucia, he has written and produced several musicals, including the creation myth Hewannorra Story and Troumassay. He wrote and produced Anthem (2004) and Esperance (2009) commissioned by the St Lucia government for the island's independence celebrations. Much of his work has been performed all over the world. Augier's poetry includes the volume Bridgemaker, which received critical acclaim. A development economist by profession, he is highly respected for his dedication to Caribbean culture and the arts.

Peter and Maria Bellot were both born in Dominica. They jointly published a book of photographs of Dominica taken by Peter and poems written by Maria to accompany the images called A Secret Place. Peter is a pathologist and currently teaches at Ross University, and Maria has worked over the years on a variety of tourism projects in Dominica and in many other islands in the Caribbean.
Roger Bonair-Agard is a Trinidadian-born poet and performance artist now living in Chicago. He is a two-time winner of the National Poetry Slam competition. An experienced teacher and worker, with inner city youth and offenders, he is the co-founder and artistic director for louderARTS in New York. His poetry explores the meeting point between his immigrant experience and his homeland of Trinidad, and his latest book of poetry, Gully, was published in 2010. Among his favourite books are The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin and Paradise by Toni Morrison.

Kathy Casimir MacLean BA (Hons); MA. Ed. is a Dominican who lives and works in Britain. She is the grand-daughter of J.R. Ralph Casimir and the daughter of Rupert & Dorothy Casimir. She was educated in Dominica, Ethiopia & Britain. She worked as a teacher for many years before becoming an Education Officer for Wandsworth, London as Head of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service. Since her retirement in 2010 she has continued to work as an educational consultant and to teach at Goldsmiths’ University. She is an expert in teaching literacy, children’s literature and strategies for raising the attainment of children from black minority ethnic groups and children learning English as an additional language. She has contributed chapters and a number of articles to books and journals on education pedagogy, she is also the co-author of A Caribbean History- Hillsborough: a plantation in Dominica.

Schuyler Esprit, PhD, lives and works in the Washington, DC in USA. She is an Assistant Professor of English Literature at Trinity Washington University, researching and teaching on Caribbean literary and cultural studies, and other literatures of the African Diaspora. She’s also written for various magazines including Black Enterprise and the emerging regional magazine, The Analyst. Dr. Esprit is currently writing a book on West Indian reading culture.

Marvin Fabien Has exhibited in places such as Paris and Martinique. Dominican Marvin Fabien is revolutionary in the domain of figurative abstract. Inspired by ancestral Caribbean Masters such as Wilfredo Lam (Cuba) Leroy Clarke (Trinidad) and Bertin Nivor (Martinique) Fabien forges his way to affirm a new and proud African representation of ART in this Caribbean region especially Dominica through his work in Music, Video, and Dub Poetry, Painting all facets of Marvin Fabien. Fabien has a new passion for what he calls 'Artistic Music Storytelling’- a mixture of all the genres of expression which he has mastered; art, music, video and poetry which he blends to create a new multidisciplinary form of expression.

Adrian Green is a Barbadian performance poet engaged in writing about Bajan society and the African diaspora. He was first introduced to performance poetry as a student in the US and took the art form back to Barbados where he would become a three-time winner of the Barbadian Slam Poetry championships and a Gold Award winner in Barbados’ National Festival of Creative Arts. He has performed widely throughout the Caribbean, the US and Ghana. His two albums of poetry are “Random Acts of Conscience” and “Hard Ears”.
Jane Ulysses Grell is a storyteller, teacher, writer, and poet from Delices, Dominica. She is currently based in London. She holds a B.A. in French from Fordham University and a postgraduate diploma in French from Poitiers University. In the mid-eighties, she began working with oral storytelling to help boost children’s literacy, especially that of bilingual children, and since 1999, she has dedicated herself full-time to storytelling.

Joanne C. Hillhouse is an Antiguan writer. She is the author of The Boy from Willow Bend, Dancing Nude in the Moonlight, and, most recently, Oh Gad. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in many literary magazines and journals, including The Caribbean Writer, Small Axe, and Calibash. Her volunteer projects include the Wadadli Youth Pen Prize, and she has been awarded the UNESCO Honour Award, Breadloaf Fellowship, and the David Hough Literary Prize from the Caribbean Writer.

Lennox Honychurch, PhD is Dominica's noted historian whose work embraces many aspects of Dominica's art, culture and history. Much of his work reflects his particular interests in archaeology and anthropology, in particular the culture of the Kalinago people of Dominica. The founder and curator of the Dominica Museum in Roseau, his current work involves restoration of the buildings at Fort Shirley in the Cabrits National Park. An expert on the 18th century artist Agostino Brunias, he is also a painter and muralist in his own right. His books include the secondary school textbook, The Caribbean People, and the history of Dominica as told in The Dominica Story. In 2011 he was a recipient of the Anthony N Sagba Caribbean Awards for Excellence.

George Lamming was born in Barbados, and after completing his high school education there, moved to Trinidad where he taught for a few years before emigrating to England. He worked for a while as a broadcaster with the BBC Colonial Service. IN 1967, he was appointed writer in residence and lecturer in the Department of Education at the University of the West Indies. Since then, he has been a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin and the Univ. of Pennsylvania, and a lecturer in Denmark, Tanzania, and Australia. His first novel “In the Castle of My Skin” was published in 1953. Other works are: The Emigrants; Natives of My Person; Of Age and Innocence; The Pleasures of Exile; Season of Adventure; Water with Berries. Lamming is regarded as a highly political author, and is credited, along with a few other Caribbean writers, with making the emergence of a Caribbean identity possible. He opposes colonialism as well as neo-colonialism and recognizes that language is a means of colonization. He sees the lack of cultural identity in this region as a direct result of the history of colonial rule.
Mervyn Morris was born in Kingston, Jamaica. He studied at the University of the West Indies, and was the recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship through which he studied at St Edmund's hall, Oxford University. From 1996 to 2002, he was on the staff of the Univ. of the West Indies from which he retired as Professor of Creative Writing and West Indian Literature. He is the author of six books of poetry: The Pond; Shadowboxing; The Examination Centre; Vestiges; On Holy Week; I've Been There, Sort Of. He has also written numerous essays. In 1976, the institute of Jamaica awarded him a Silver Musgrave Medal for poetry. He has given poetry readings in the Caribbean, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the USA, Canada and Malaysia. He was a UK Arts Council Visiting Writer in Residence at South Banks Centre in 1992. In 2002, he co-directed a workshop at Ty Newydd, in Wales. His most influential academic work has been on the author/actress Louise Bennett.

Elizabeth Nunez, PhD was born in Trinidad where she completed her high school education. She received her MA and PHD in English from New York University, and is CUNY Distinguished Professor of English at Medgar Evers college where she chairs the English department. Professor Nunez is the award winning author of six novels: Prospero’s Daughter; Grace; Discretion; Bruised Hibiscus; Beyond the Limbo Silence; and When Rocks Dance. Prospero’s Daughter, her most recent novel, was named 2006 Best Novel of the Year by Black Issues Book Review. Bruised Hibiscus won a 2001 American Book Award. Dr. Nunez is co-editor with Jennifer Sparrow of the anthology, “Stories from Blue Latitudes: Caribbean Writers at Home and Abroad” and author of several monographs of literary criticism, with emphasis on Caribbean literature. She is executive producer of the 2004 NY Emmy-nominated CUNY TV series Black Writers in America.

Polly Pattullo is a journalist, editor, author and publisher. She worked on national newspapers in the UK for many years as both a writer and editor. She is the author of various books about the Caribbean including "Last Resorts: the cost of tourism in the Caribbean. Polly now teaches writing skills to adults in the UK and runs Papillote Press, a publishing house based in the UK and Dominica.

Mario Picayo was born in Cuba, grew up in Puerto Rico and lived much of his adult life in the US Virgin Islands. He is a cultural activist, audiovisual artist and writer. He has worked for the Smithsonian Institution, the Dominican Republic's Institute of Folklore, and many other cultural organisations in the US and the Caribbean. He is a founding member of LART (Latino Artists Round Table), a not-for-profit cultural institution based in New York and is director of Editorial Campana (Campana Publishers). Mario also worked for Sesame Workshop (Sesame Street) as Spanish editor in their magazine division. He is the author of three children's books: the best-seller and Americas Award Recommended Title A Caribbean Journey from A to Y (Read and Discover What Happened to the Z), the popular A Very Smart Cat/Una Gata Muy Inteligente (bilingual English and Spanish), and, most recently, another Caribbean story Four Wishes for Robbie.
Reseau Poetique Guadeloupe (Guadeloupean Poets Network) Led by Claude Danican and Louisette Simphor, the Guadeloupean Poets Network is a collective of performance poets, novelists, dancers, traditional drummers and other musicians. Their repertoire based on Kwéyòl poetry performed to gwo ka rhythms and dance.

Lasana M. Sekou was born January 12 1959. He is a poet, short story writer, essayist, journalist, and publisher from the Caribbean island of Saint Martin. Sekou has authored over 15 books and is recognized as one of the prolific Caribbean poets of his generation. He is considered the ‘Walcott’ of the Dutch Caribbean because of his vast output, the range of subject matter and unique literary styling, which often includes the use of Caribbean Creole languages, Spanish, French, and Dutch — sometimes in one poem.

Sandra Vivas is an experienced art teacher and a ballet dancer for over 15 years. Among her teachers in Yoga have been Elba Dominguez, Erich Shiffmann and Shiva Rea. Since 1989 Vivas, a contemporary artist has exhibited Europe and North America and Latin América, mostly in Caracas, Venezuela, where she is from. She received her Master in Fine Arts, in 1995 from the New Genre Department, San Francisco Art Institute, USA, and her Bachelor’s Degree in Arts, in 1992 from Escuela de Artes, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas. She moved to Dominica, West Indies in 2009 and is in the process of reinventing herself to her new Caribbean Identity. Her works uses performance, video and painting to portray the problems of identity using a twisted sense of humor.

Mary Walters is currently an art teacher in Edinburgh and is also undertaking a part-time degree in Combined Studies at Edinburgh College of Art. Having begun her career with a degree in Geography from Edinburgh University, she developed a fascination with landscape and the environment that remains with her today. She also is interested in filmmaking projects with young people and in performance art. Her art was featured in a major exhibition (along with a book published by Papillote Press, Yet We Survive) that featured the Kalinago people of Dominica.
**2012 Writing Contest Winners**

**100-word short story competition**
- 1st prize: Natasha Henderson
- 2nd prize: Jamie Alleyne
- 3rd prize: Gloria Augustus

**Eight-line poetry competition** ...using the letters in the word "Dominica" as the first letter of the first word in each line.
- 1st prize: Martha Cuffy
- 2nd prize: FO Riviere
- 3rd prize: Vida Toussaint
- Commended: Beverly Royer

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**100-word short story competition**

**1st prize: Natasha Henderson**
Perched at the window of her little shack was where she spent her days, waiting. Waiting for a sign of life other than her own. Waiting for a glimmer of hope to one day discover the land where lights shone at night. The adolescent Claudia lived alone on a tiny islet in the backdrop of the aristocratic domain of the Delaroche family. A servant came daily on a boat to bring her meals and to help her carry herself around. A deformed child was a disgrace, especially to a "noble" family. Claudia was that shameful family secret.

**2nd prize: Jamie Alleyne**
She sat on the large wrought-iron bed - a symbol of the life she was about to leave behind. Her eyes nervously searched beyond the open louvered window. Had she seen his shadow? Was it someone else? Had their secret been discovered? No ... just Titi the cat. She carefully exhaled. He should be here soon...If his journey by horse then boat to make it across to her side of the island hadn't been disturbed. Marie looked down at her fair hands, and wondered, at what point did stealing away from her father's house become her only choice at happiness?

**3rd prize: Gloria Augustus**
My naked feet gripped the sand as muffled cries behind me struck my heart before my ears. I quickly dislodged my feet and scurried sharply left into the dilapidated shed. I heard a gruff voice saying, "Shut your damn mouth. Get into into the boat." Peeping through the broken window I saw Papa Zigo pulling a struggling human. My brains obliged my hand with shaking cellular to take two pictures. I dumped my joint into an oily grey pail and escaped through my secret exit towards the road. I smiled. Constable Jones was about to solve his first crime.

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**Eight-line poetry competition** (using the letters in the word "Dominica" as the first letter of the first word in each line)

**1st prize: Martha Cuffy**
Denim-clad thighs, a basic need
Of any Dominican
Minx, who whines
In line with Dance Hall Queens
Nibbling the edge of a man's
Insistence that he returns, in
Chastity, to his Beloved.
Asunder, she rips her jeans and his resolve...
2nd prize: FO Riviere
Does anyone simply say pleasant memories
Of yet another of these anniversaries
Monumental in all their subtleties
Instituted some short five years ago!
Nuff respect, pray, to one an' all
Involved in these yearly timely presentations
Cleverly, yet meticulously put together
At no cost for all to partake!

3rd prize: Vida Toussaint
Direct yourself to positivity
Overthrowing all negativity
Making a difference to the youth of your country
Invoke their creativity
Never reject their ability Instead, embrace them equally
Create the I can mentality
Achieving their goal's destiny

Commended: Beverly Royer
Dragonfly flutters far
Over the water jar
Moves its wings
Instead it blings
Never doubts itself
It has good health
Can come to a still
Away it goes, up a hill.