

VIOLA HORSHAM Founding Member

6th October 1915 to 26th December 2008

The Home Economics community in Trinidad and Tobago and indeed, in the Caribbean was deeply saddened by the news of the recent passing of Viola Horsham, A true friend and colleague.

Viola taught many years at the Arima Girls Government Primary school and later studied at Mc Donald College, Mc Gill university, Canada where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics, after which she proceeded to Montreal General Hospital, Canada to pursue and internship in Nutrition and Dietetics.

On her return to Trinidad and Tobago she worked in the field of Home Economics At the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, as well as in the community in Trinidad and Tobago.

After her retirement from the John S. Donaldson Technical Institute, Viola accepted a PAHO assignment to work in the island of Montserrat, where in an administrative capacity she was able to organize its new thrust in the delivery of food and nutrition to its population.

Viola also assisted the Antigua Broadcasting Station (ABS) in conducting live Food demonstrations to educate the viewers on correct ways to plan, cook and serve healthy and nutritious local dishes and meals.

She also believed in the value of professional organizations as a means of unifying Members of the discipline and of providing learning experiences for younger members of the profession. As such she was founding member of the Trinidad and Tobago

where she served in several capacities included that of President.

When Trinidad and Tobago decided to organize as regional meeting, with the aim of moving to form a regional body, Viola was one of those who worked hardest to bring it about. Later, she became the first President of the Caribbean Association of Home Economists. She was a co author of the Texts “Home Economics in Action’. These Texts are used throughout the Caribbean. Also during her tenure as President, it was decided that governments in the Caribbean offer scholarships to Home Economists to enable them to qualify at tertiary level, in order to meet demands in developing communities, and that the University of the West Indies be requested to set up a school/department of Home Economics so that persons interested in the field would not have to go abroad for training.

Viola was honored and received many awards and accolades .from these associations. She was also a member of the Trinidad and Tobago association of Nutritionists and Dietitians where she served on various committees. When the regional body of the Caribbean Association of Nutritionist and Dietitians was formed, she became the fifth vice-president, and a member of the Board of Directors.

Even though we knew her mainly as a hard-working disciplined professional colleague, we were always keenly aware of her deep faith and the Christian principles that guided her as these were evident in every single thing she did.

