



Tova Neugut '01

Amherst, Massachusetts

Grenada: Memory Moving Forward

The Grenada Education and Development Programme (GRENED) Organization

Grenville, St. Andrew's, Grenada

Project Goals

- ◆ To document the wide range of memories of October 1983 -- when the Grenada Revolution ended and the U.S. intervened militarily in Grenada
- ◆ To provide a forum for respectful interchange of views on the events of October 1983
- ◆ To generate discussion of the way forward for a fuller healing among Grenadians

Personal Goals

- ◆ To understand the significance of October 1983 for individual Grenadians and in the national consciousness
- ◆ To enhance my understanding of the meaning of reconciliation through conversation with Grenadians, and to consider how this concept has particular and/or universal meaning(s)
- ◆ To deepen bonds developed during my previous summer internship with GRENED



Activities

- ◆ Prepared a pamphlet presenting a description of the project and project goals, and inviting participation
- ◆ Provided project information and updates to government officials and other significant players
- ◆ Participated in organizing and filming of nine conversations on the events of October 1983, held throughout Grenada

Key Dilemmas

- ◆ How to present the project so that it would appeal to people of vastly different political beliefs
- ◆ How to articulate an understanding of the events of October 1983 that is palatable to people who hold different views
- ◆ What is my particular relationship, as an American, to the subject matter of the conversations that constitute the project?



Grenada

Lessons Learned

- ◆ There is frequently a tension between the desire to escape painful memories by “putting it behind us” and the desire to remember and memorialize.
- ◆ Individual processes of reconciliation proceed at a pace set by the individual; two individuals may proceed at vastly different paces.
- ◆ Many questions about the events of October 1983 in Grenada remain unanswered; pooling knowledge within a community can sometimes generate answers. Conversations that involve a community in shared reflection have remarkable power.



Left to right, page 10: A view of St. George's, capital city of Grenada. Overlooking the sea is the fort where Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and others were assassinated on October 19, 1983; illustration of a nutmeg plant; Tova with mentor Dessima Williams; Page 11, above: Tova, Professor Dessima Williams and Nikki Roberts (standing) examine a scrapbook compiled by the Young Leaders at Presentation Boys College in St. George's, advised by Bro. Roberts (far left). Right: Tova films a conversation among residents of Sauteurs on memories of the events of October, 1983. Far right: a mask carved of calabash by a local artisan.

