



District Grand Lodge of Barbados & The Eastern Caribbean's 339th Communication 37th Convocation

# *339th Communication & 37th Convocation*

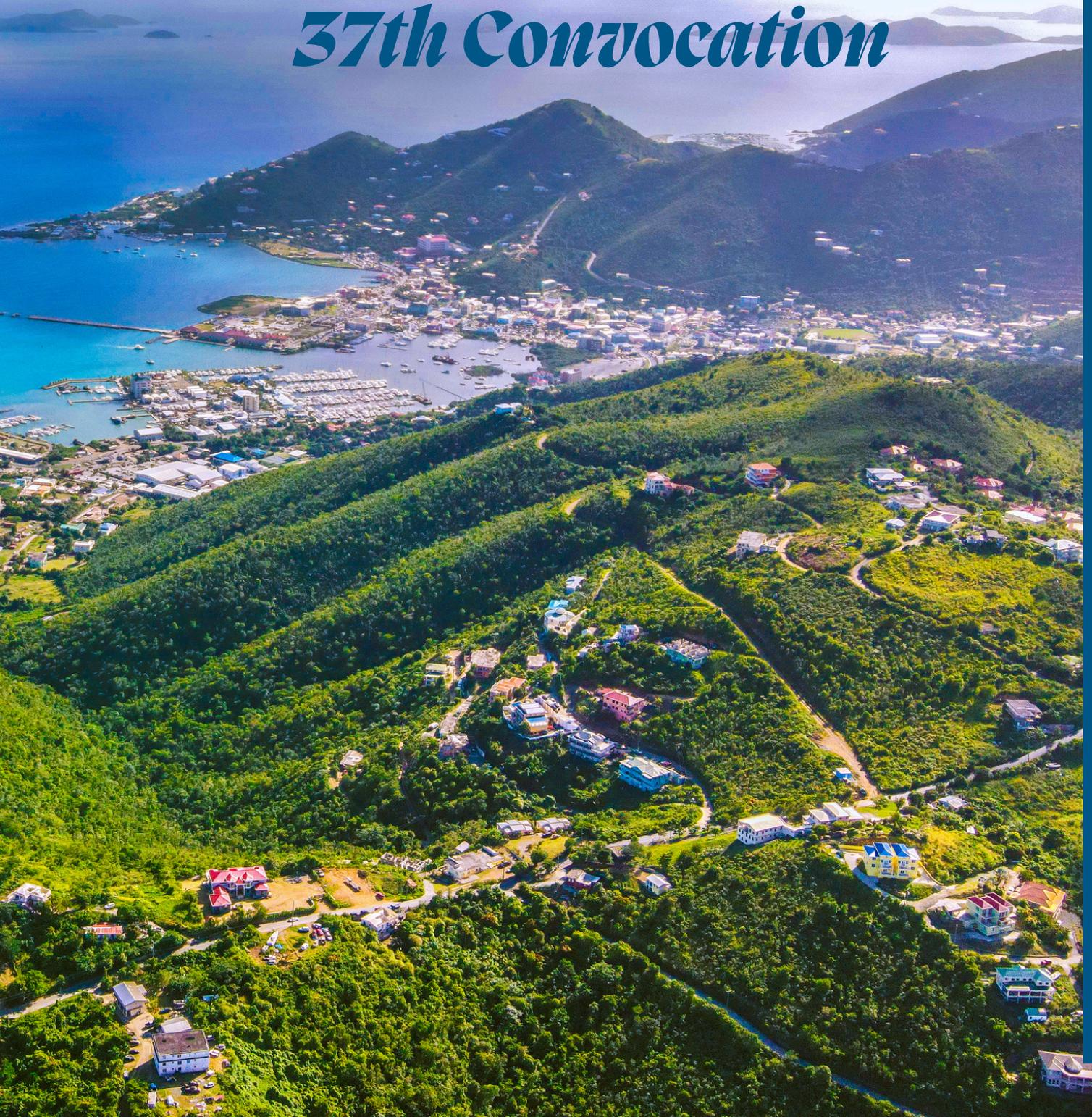




Table of  
*Contents.*

**01** Schedule of Events

**02** Message From  
Worshipful Master

**03** Message From  
District Grand Master

**04** Message From  
Chairman of  
Organising Committee

**05** Lodge St. Ursula's – The  
Early Days

**06** Join the Whatsapp  
Chat Group





# 01 Schedule of Events

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## Wednesday, October 16, 2025

- Arrivals – All Day

## Thursday, October 16, 2025

- Arrivals – All Day

## Friday, October 17, 2025

- Brian Douglas Parsons Installed Principals Chapter No. 9335 – Convocation – **10:30 AM** (Venue: *Maria's By The Sea*)
- District Stewards Lodge No. 9881 Meeting – Communication – **2:00 PM** (Venue: *Maria's By The Sea*)
- Welcome Cocktail – **7:30 PM** (Venue: *Treasure Isle Hotel*)

## Saturday, October 18, 2025

- 339th District Grand Lodge Communication – **10:00 AM** (Venue: *Maria's By The Sea*)
- 37th District Grand Chapter Convocation – **2:00 PM** (Venue: *Maria's By The Sea*)
- Ladies Program – **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
- District Grand Master's Banquet – **7:30 PM** (Venue: *Treasure Isle Hotel*)

## Sunday, October 19, 2025

- Church Service – **10:30 AM** (*Cane Garden Bay Baptist Church*)
  - Brunch – **10:30 AM to 5:30 PM** (*A. O. Shirley Masonic Center*)
  - Departures – All Day
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Message From  
Worshipful Master of St. Ursula 8952 E.C.  
**W. Bro. Steve I. S. George**

Brethren, what a blessing it is when we can gather together in harmony and fellowship! St. Ursula's Lodge No. 8952 E.C. is truly honored to host the 339th District Communication and the 37th Convocation of the Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. As Worshipful Master, it brings me great pleasure to welcome you warmly to the British Virgin Islands—our cherished home, often called Nature's Little Secret.

Although our central purpose is to carry out the important labors of our Craft, it is equally our joy to share the spirit, culture, and hospitality of these islands with you. We have prepared a program of activities to ensure that visiting brethren and their families, especially our distinguished ladies, will enjoy both the fellowship of the Lodge and the beauty of our country.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the Chairman and the entire planning committee of St. Ursula's. Their dedication and commitment have been invaluable in making sure this Communication and Convocation will be both meaningful and memorable.

It is my hope that each of you will leave with not only the satisfaction of our masonic labors well done but also with fond memories of your time here in the British Virgin Islands.

Fraternally and sincerely,

W. Bro. Steve I. S. George  
Worshipful Master, St. Ursula's 8952 E.C.

**02**

CONSECRATED  
AUGUST 18 1980



Message From  
District Grand Master/Grand Superintendent of the  
District Grand Lodge of Barbados & the Eastern  
Caribbean  
**RW. Bro. Clement E M Bird**

Freemasonry in the British Virgin Islands has been traced to the early 1760s, via long extinct lodges, Tortola No. 108 & Lodge of Concord No. 201.<sup>1</sup> For the historically minded amongst us, the exceedingly interesting ‘nugget’ is that whilst the former was warranted by the Antients Grand Lodge and the latter, by the Premier Grand Lodge! St. Ursula’s No. 8952, holden under the United Grand Lodge is itself forty-five years old and on the cusp of its own milestone in the ‘blink of an eye’.

Brethren, as you travel your District you continue to appreciate the length, breadth and depth of our Masonic history in our fair islands. We were last here in 2016 when our District hosted a Regional Conference meeting of our Caribbean & Atlantic Districts. No such fanfare on this occasion, but an excellent opportunity to greet your fellows, rekindle relations, and enjoy fraternal relations.

On your behalf I offer a heartfelt “thank you” to the Organizing Committee and members of St. Ursulas lodge and Concord chapter for all they have done, the efforts made in welcoming us here and ensuring a memorable stay. To the “traveling men” thank you for making the journey.

Let us soak up the warmth and hospitality of the British Virgin Islands!  
Our ladies are with us once more in their numbers, and we cannot fail but have an excellent time in this vibrant outpost in the North.

**03**

<sup>1</sup> Freemasonry in the British Virgin Islands: W Bro Charlie Lewis PDDGDC, Lecture in L8952, 31 ST July 1992.



Message From  
Chairman of Organising Committee  
**W. Bro. Joseph Smith Abbott, PAGDC, PDSGW**

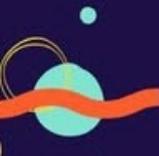
On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee of St. Ursula's Lodge No. 8952, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the Virgin Islands to the District Officers, Brethren of the District, our ladies and guests to the 339th District Grand Lodge Communication and the 37th District Grand Convocation for the District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

The Committee, together with the dedicated support of our local ladies, has carefully prepared a suite of events designed to ensure that this occasion will be memorable and enriching for all who attend. It is our sincere wish that your time with us will be both enjoyable and filled with the fellowship and harmony that distinguish our Craft.

We are especially grateful for the invaluable assistance of the Worshipful Master and the Worshipful Brethren of the District Grand Stewards Lodge No. 9881, whose experience, guidance, and counsel have been instrumental in organizing our meetings and the District Grand Master's Banquet. Their support has greatly enhanced our preparations.

I also take this opportunity to thank the members of the Local Organizing Committee, who have freely given of their time, talents, and expertise to bring these events to fruition. Their dedication and teamwork are deeply appreciated.

We trust that you will enjoy your stay in our islands, take pleasure in all that the Virgin Islands have to offer, and leave with fond memories of your visit and of this special gathering.



# Long Story Short

## EVENT RUNDOWN

**5 NOV**

### **BOOK LAUNCH: BUILD YOUR TABLE**

*Green Room, HLSCC Learning Resource Centre (LRC) | 5:00 p.m.*

**6-7 NOV**

### **LET'S TALK LIT PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

*HLSCC LRC/Eileene L. Parsons Auditorium, Paraquita Bay | 9:00 a.m.*

**6 NOV**

### **WRITERS' WELCOME RECEPTION** 🎟

*Rhythm + Sands, Cane Garden Bay | 6:00 - 10:00 P.M.*

**7 NOV**

### **BOOK FAIR**

*HLSCC Learning Resource Centre (LRC) | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.*

**7 NOV**

### **SUNSET STORIES** 🎟

*Brandywine Estate Restaurant, Brandywine Bay | 5:30 p.m.*

**8 NOV**

### **LITERARY WONDERLAND: TORTOLA**

*HLSCC Learning Resource Centre (LRC) | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

**8 NOV**

### **WRITING WITH WRITERS WORKSHOPS** 🎟

*HLSCC Main Building, Paraquita Bay | 9:00 a.m.*

**8 NOV**

### **ART FOR ART'S SAKE**

*Taste the BVI, 60 Main St. | 2:30 p.m.*

**8 NOV**

### **LIGHT A FIRE: POETS' SHOWCASE** 🎟

*Botella, Cyril B. Romney Pier Park | 7:00 p.m.*

**9 NOV**

### **BOOK BRUNCH** 🎟

*1748 Restaurant, Long Bay Beach Resort | 10:00 a.m.*

**15 NOV**

### **LITERARY WONDERLAND: VIRGIN GORDA**

*HLSCC Virgin Gorda Centre, The Village Rose | 9:00 a.m.*

For more info, visit [www.bvilitfest.com](http://www.bvilitfest.com)



# Lodge St. Ursula's – The Early Days

By W. Bro. Phillip Fenty, PDJGD



05

It was 6:00 p.m. May 30, 1979, and the Great Architect was angry. Outside the rain fell in torrents with the lightning and thunder alternately blinding, then ear shattering. Inside, huddled together, a few intrepid spec-ulative who, after much talk over several preceding months, years in fact, had finally managed to get together at the same time in the same place; to all outward appearances, just upright and very damp. There was W. Bro. George Mitchell, W. Bro. Ted Plowman, Bro. Ralph O'Neal, Bro. Bill Bullimore, Bro. Fred Sampson, Bro.'Doc' Osborne – and myself. W. Bro.Ted's good wife, after providing "Corn and Wine" had retired for the night and left us to our mysterious mutterings. An extract from the minutes of that distant night reads in part: "... The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m. and for historical record took place in a torrential storm that lasted from 2:00 p.m. May 30th, until the early hours of May 31st...". There had been many previous 'get togeth-ers' at which the possibility of forming a lodge had been discussed, but at this meeting officially began the trek of the Brethren of the British Virgin Islands toward the East, and the formation and consecration of "The Lodge".

It was decided that night that we would try to find as many brethren as possible resident in the B.V.I. and petition the United Grand Lodge of England for a charter, and at the same time ask Harmonic #356 in St. Thomas to be our sponsor. This time it seemed that we would really succeed, as in the past, attempts had been frustrated by not having enough brethren resident in the B.V.I.

There then began what seemed an interminable number of letters between Grand Secretary and W. Bro. George Mitchell on the correct form for our application and the timing of the consecration. In the mean time such mundane matters as: where to meet; what dress to wear; furniture; regalia; subscriptions; etc. were also proceeding apace under the very able direction of W. Bro. George. Unfortunately there seems to have been a break in the minute keeping between the departure of W. Bro. Ted Plowman and the fortunate arrival of Bro. Peter Crossley in early 1980.

(Those of us who remember Bro. Crossley will also remember that without his obvious delight in writing letters and organizing paperwork, and indeed the brethren themselves, it is very doubtful that we would ever have made the consecration dead-line). Looking through the files kept by Bro. Crossley of those distant days, it seems that he even managed to convince the then Grand Secretary that he had everything under control and that nothing would dare to go wrong. One of his letters to Sir James Stubbs ends with "... Having served as the Organizing Secretary for Lodge Albion in Durban, I feel that I am a seasoned veteran in these matters.

.". So, even though the details of the meetings between October 12, 1979 and May 23, 1980 are somewhat sketchy, there was no lapse in commitment by the Brethren.

Prospect Reef was approached with a view to using their conference room as a temporary Temple, but we were told by the then manager that he did not want the hotel used by any "Secret Society". We then approached the Treasure Isle hotel to be greeted with exactly the opposite reaction. At last we had a home; temporary though it may have been. Meanwhile, W. Bro. Bob Gray had produced the pedestals and gavels that we are still using, and with the blessing of the Grand Lodge we began having twice weekly practice meetings in preparation for the consecration of the Lodge and the work that would come immediately after.

Tragedy struck with terrible swiftness on June 28, 1980 when W. Bro. George Mitchell was called to the Grand Lodge above. When the details of the funeral arrangements were settled and we had time to take stock of the situation we once again found ourselves with the prospect of losing the chance of a Lodge, since W. Bro. George was the only Past Master of the English Constitution in the group.

However, as is usually the case, the Great Architect saw fit to intervene, and the person that was to become the very glue that held us Ancient Brethren together descended on us from Harmonic. Little did we realize at first what a hard task master had come in to our midst. W. Bro. John D. M. Woods, OGR!!

He swept into our lives, and it became obvious that he would take no prisoners in his quest to make St. Ursula's the very best it would be. It would be very difficult to convey to those Brethren who were not present at that time, what it was like learning - because make no mistake, learning is exactly what we were all doing - about Masonry, from a man that lived and breathed it, and dragged us along by sheer force of personality and the examples that he set.

With the exception of W. Bro. Bob Gray and W. Bro. Bill Roy, none of us had held office before, and with the passing of W. Bro. George, we had only W. Bro. John to depend on. (Please understand that this is not to say that W. Bros. Roy and Gray were incapable of leading us, but rather that neither of them were at the time members of the English Constitution, and thus could not take the chair of King Solomon as our first Master). W. Bro. John contracted with us that if we would put everything we had into making St. Ursula's work, he would attend every meeting for five years. It is now a matter of history that he fulfilled that obligation and beyond. And all this while battling, together with the Brethren of St. Thomas, to recover from a devastating fire that occurred in January 1980, which totally destroyed the interior of Harmonic. St. Ursula owes W. Bro. John and the Brethren of Harmonic #356 a debt what we can never repay.

Meanwhile Bro. Peter Crossley had been carrying on his harassing of Grand Secretary and finally we received the long awaited letter from Grand Lodge: "... the M.W. The Grand Master has been pleased to accede to the prayer of the petition for the proposed Saint Ursula's Lodge to meet at Tortola.

The number will be 8952 ...". Dated 11th June, 1980, this incredible news was received by the Brethren with much joyful backslapping and So Mote It Be's. We were now Saint Ursula's Lodge No. 8952 EC. The date for the Consecration was finally set for August 18, 1980, but as usual the voice of caution from W. Bro. John was heard saying: "Brethren, your work has just begun!"

In due course, the consecration took place amid the charred remains of Harmonic's Temple and we held our first meeting as a lodge on 29th August, 1980 in the Treasure Isle Hotel's conference room. St. Ursula's first initiate was Bro. Graham Davis, then manager of Caribbean Printing Company Ltd. During this time, W. Bro. Bill Bullimore was busy building his sail loft and offered us the use thereof when it was completed.

A small corner of the building was made into a storage room and the afternoon before each meeting as many of us as could make it, went to the loft and "Put the Lodge together" . This meant putting up special huge curtains suspended from steel wires that ran at various strategic points throughout the loft; moving out of storage and into place, the pedestals and all the other bits and pieces, both movable and immovable. At the end of the meeting the reverse had to take place and our "secrets locked up in a safe place" once again.

We lived happily in the loft from 30th January 1981 to 24th April 1987 and it was during this time that the idea that we might actually be able to afford to build our very own temple first surfaced. After many moons of agonizing over plans and financing gymnastics, finally, during the reign of W. Bro. Bullimore, and I feel primarily as a result of his pushing, the Temple became a reality. Those of us who met for so long in W. Bro. Bill's sail loft will miss with fond memories that bit of flooring immediately in front of the Junior Warden's pedestal which protested loudly every time it was subjected to the Brethren weight.

We lived in constant fear that one night W. Bro. Ralph would suddenly disappear before our very eyes. After many happy years in the loft, for which we will ever be in W. Bro. Bill's debt, we finally moved to our present Temple.. but that's another story.



# GET YOUR BVI LIT FEST EVENT TICKETS TODAY!

## FEATURING

### WRITERS' RECEPTION

6 NOV 2025  
\$100.00

### SUNSET STORIES

7 NOV 2025  
\$60.00

### LIGHT A FIRE POETS' SHOWCASE

8 NOV 2025  
\$60.00

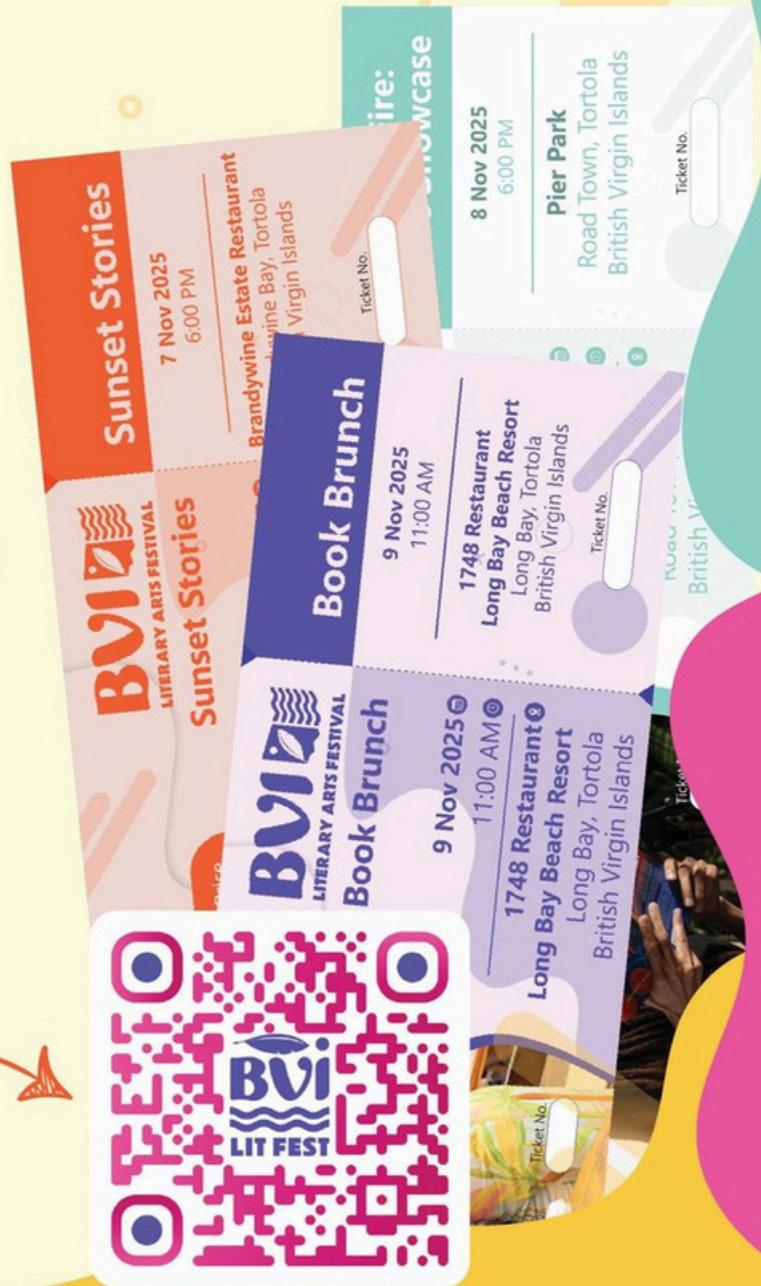
### BOOK BRUNCH

9 NOV 2025  
\$75.00

### PHYSICAL TICKET OUTLETS:

- HLSCC CAMPUS STORE
- HLSCC VIRGIN GORDA CENTRE
- BEANS, TORTOLA PIER PARK

ONLINE TICKETS @  
[BVILITFEST.COM](https://bvilitfest.com)



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GOVERNMENT OF THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture  
and Sustainable Development



On behalf of the LOC we would like to thank you all for attending and we wish you a safe return to your homeland.



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Eastern Caribbean  
WhatsApp group



06