

INKS

Interactive, Networking with Kathy Sinclair.

Greetings, My name is Christena AV Williams and I am from the beautiful island where the sun kisses the rivers and the beaches magnificently. Also, I am a recent graduate from The University of The West Indies, B.A. History major and Philosophy Minor. However, my passion is writing poetry for which I am twice awarded for my book, Pearls among stones. I must say that I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to be a part of the Commonwealth women Mentorship scheme. I believe that mentorship is vital for human learning and character building. Since I have been a part of the programme I have learnt a lot from my mentor as well as the other mentees.

My mentor Kathy Sinclair is a Canadian city councillor for Kamloops and part of Kamloops Arts council. We have sessions every two weeks on Mondays at 11:00 am (my time). We are both creative souls and I have enjoyed every talks via skype. The first time we skyped I was enthralled by her personality, punctuality and dedication to the task. We both shared music and poetry we loved so that we could begin to understand culture and individuality. It was very interactive from our laughs, her showing me her cat, and her talking to my mom. We would speak about things happening day to day and then after that whole introduction, we analyzed poems and read aloud some. I remember once not trying to laugh as she began performing Louise Bennett's poetry because it is written in Jamaican patois. Amazingly, she read and understood the language to an extent; impressive.

A part from analyzing, she would give me assignments for which I learnt so much. She would also review my own poetry and gave me an important advice, she said, that I write with passion

and that I was better suited to be a spoken word poet or in my country dub poet. Surprisingly, I had a major performance coming up and with her encouraging words I delivered with excellence.

The sessions was not only about me as I tried to know more about her and to share my perspective on issues. Guess what she learned a thing or two for which I can say that our experience together is really a lifelong lesson as they say. Well, from my interaction with her I took away that I needed to listen more before I speak and give each person an opportunity to express their own opinions.

Interaction also came with the coordinators and mentees as they would share inspirational messages, ideas, educational opportunities and discussions. This lead to friendships on Facebook and some even had the opportunity to advise each other especially in the assignments. In all, I can say I have enjoyed the experience with mentor and mentees and I am grateful to the commonwealth mentorship scheme for the opportunity.