



## 2017 RESIDENCY

- Two-week residency in Green Hill, Mt. St. George, Tobago, 20 minutes from Tobago's capital, Scarborough
- Dates: June 17 - July 1, 2017
- Application deadline: March 15, 2017 [click here for application materials](#)

*The residency will be conducted by M. Jacqui Alexander*

*All programs of the Centre aim to teach us how to become guardians of our individual and collective spiritual evolution and growth by being attuned to the interweaving of the sacred in our daily lives. The purpose of these activities is to call us to remember and to live our sacred connections to Mother Earth and to one another so as to strengthen our relationship with the Divine. This residency includes:*

- Daily devotion, meditation, yoga, and ceremony, where possible
- Educational programs that include the cross-cultural study of sacred texts
- Guided cultivation of food and medicinal plants
- Practice in the restoration of the sweet waters of the sacred river surrounding the Centre
- Focused intimacy with plants in order to experience them as sentient beings
  - Respectful visit to Tobago's Main Ridge, the oldest legally protected Rainforest Reserve
  - Island tour and excursion

## Testimonios

...To enter the Tobago Centre is to encounter a sense of, and an unspoken commitment to, compassion with one another—a“shared feeling of grace.” Within our *egbe* (group of spiritual companions) we were in the constant company of friends and spirit, organized by Òrìṣà traditions and orchestrated by Iya M. Jacqui Alexander's meticulous skill and



Photo by Anna Barsan

openheartedness in teaching by demonstration, conversation and participation.  
[Read more...](#)

*Susan James, Graduate Faculty, Pacifica Graduate Institute, Santa Barbara, CA*

*. . .When the spiritual is put to work in the everyday. . .*

Almost inadvertently, Audre Lorde's essay, "Black Women Hatred and Anger," kept presenting itself to me—the various ways in which we, as Black women, have learned to use our sharpest knives against one another. For me, putting



Photo by Anna Barsan

down my armour was no small thing. The new openness felt awkward at times, too much nakedness as it were, not being able to fall back on the usual defense mechanisms—big mouth, critical remarks, impatience, and lack of generosity. We all, so it felt, were motivated to be open towards each other and to the work that needed to be done for making the Centre a reality. [Read more...](#)

*Gloria Wekker, Professor Emerita, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands.*



Photo by Malkah McNeilly

. . .In the time it took to climb the winding road up the mountainside, in the distance we covered each day on foot, I came to perceive, in fleeting glimpses, the veils of time parting like the layers and folds in Mama Oyá's skirts, yawning open in the unctuous air, in the caressing motion of the sensuous breeze, then rippling open in the swift dance of the sudden, lively wind. Lizard and hummingbird, caiman and bachac greeted us each day at the entrance to the Land framed by an archway of towering bamboo. They met us on the curve of the ascending road, deep in this verdant vegetation, at the threshold of timeless time. [Read more...](#)

*Mosa McNeilly, MES, Independent Artist, Performer, Scholar, Toronto.*

The Tobago Centre is a non-smoking, alcohol, and drug free environment.

*Perpetual gratitude to our ancestors and to all our relations  
in whose footsteps we walk and who provide the spiritual grounding  
that makes this work possible. May we be consistent in attuning ourselves  
to the teachings of Mother Earth and to the rhythms of Her breathing.*