WE CELEBRATE A LIFE WELL LIVED

CARMEN ENID JARVIS
SHE LEAVES A LEGACY OF ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, GIRL GUIDING
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

CELEBRATING GUYANESE WOMEN
- IN MUSIC
- IN INDUSTRY
- IN POLITICS
- IN AVIATION

In their March 2017 version of the newsmagazine the Board and members of Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. invite you to a celebration of the accomplishments of Guyanese women. They range in experience from the narrow to the global but all are respected for the persistence and grit with which they have pursued their lives of grace.

We do not need the now traditional month dedicated to women across the world. We acknowledge our women all the time. Therefore, while sad about her passing, we know that the praise heaped on Carmen Enid Jarvis in October, 2016 was done in good time. And in the same vein, as we invite you to read, in the series of articles following the one on Mrs. Jarvis, about the paths trod and still being trod by solid women of our country, let us remember, praise and emulate their pioneering roles in the several sectors (aviation, the Police Band, contemporary politics, the canefield industry, the present day performing arts) that compose life in our country. Send them a note. Let them know you and the rest of us In a parallel admire them.

A cup of one of Dalgety’s teas may be quite appropriate as you reminisce about the accomplishments of our women in the field of music, some of them the first in that field, and enjoy the nod given to Tom Charles and Major Henwood.

Look for the latest fiction by Peter Halder; a retrospective on language and cultural continuity by Lear Matthews, promotions on the anthropological narratives by Eusi Kwayana and Percy Haynes and an account of technological use in Kanashen.

There are opportunities to support charities throughout our community in our alumni, religious and other associations. And our interest in education and preservation of our culture may be fostered in either, or both, the Annual GCA Symposium and Literary Hang and the University of Guyana initiative on Diaspora engagement. In a parallel space, in the rapidly rising and evolving field of film arts you will find an exploration via the celluloid of our place in the sun. Do follow the interview by the Guyanese/Nigerian siblings Chelsea and Emann Odifu and plan to see Ori Inu.

It is all music to our ears.

And we bridging.

Peace,

Dr. Juliet Emanuel.

March Editor
Describing her as a stalwart who made outstanding contributions to Guyana’s education system even before independence, President David Granger said Mrs Carmen Jarvis, an iconic Guyanese, will surely be missed. The former Secretary-General of the Guyana National Commission for UNESCO passed away Wednesday evening in the United States (U.S.) at the age of 92. “She was our country’s representative to UNESCO, and in this regard, she was able to give Guyana great prominence in the world, particularly for heritage sites,” President Granger told reporters at State House on Thursday. In expressing condolences to the relatives of Mrs Jarvis, especially her two daughters, Jennifer and Alison, President Granger recalled that it was only last October that the renowned educator launched her autobiography in the form of a book, From Seedtime to Harvest.

Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo said Mrs. Jarvis has left a matchless legacy as a cultural ambassador, educator and female exemplar. “I feel honoured to have known her and worked with her whilst she served as Guyana’s Secretary-General to UNESCO. She championed our cause for assistance in culture and education...”

Prime Minister Mr. Nagamootoo noted that over the years, his acquaintance with Mrs. Jarvis “became, for me, a mother-like figure, a grand lady who was full of charm, who always had a gracious smile and who led an extraordinary life.”

Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo

First published in the Guyana Chronicle

Hers was a life well lived, and even while we mourn, we celebrate this fact and the substantial legacy she has left.

In her years of teaching, Mrs. Jarvis was employed at Queen’s College, then Bishops’ before being appointed deputy headmistress then headmistress of The Bishops’ High School, where she served for 27 years. Her next job after retiring from Bishops’ was deputy chief education officer before accepting the post of Secretary-General of the Guyana National Commission for UNESCO in 1979. During her tenure there, she attended and participated in every General Conference between 1980 and 2003 and made meaningful interventions in every commission, even in cases where she was the sole delegate from Guyana. She was one of the longest serving and also one of the most respected individuals to hold the post of Secretary-General and was awarded the Aristotle Medal by UNESCO. Mrs. Jarvis was also responsible for Guyana’s being elected to the Executive Board of UNESCO twice, from 1983 to 1987 and from 1993 to 1997. She played an integral role in Guyana once being elected to the Man and the Biosphere International Council and several times to the Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). In 1983, she was appointed the first woman Chairman of the National Library Committee. She also served on the Council of the University of Guyana for some 14 years.

In 1981, she was awarded the Golden Arrow of Achievement for long and outstanding service in education and social work. In 1998, Mrs. Jarvis was awarded a second national award, this time, the Cacique Crown of Honour for her outstanding service in education and social work.

“My mother was a phenomenal woman – a tower of love and strength to her immediate and extended family and a shining example of godly womanhood. She shared herself and her God-given gifts freely with others and with her community and always exerted others to aim for excellence in everything they undertook. As a result she leaves behind an inimitable legacy of achievement in many areas, including education, international development, Girl Guiding, civic and charitable involvement and two books. I am so happy that I was able to take her home to Guyana and to New York for the launching of her autobiography last October, because she derived so much pleasure from being able to meet and greet dear family members and long-time friends.

Jennifer Jarvis-King, daughter
To the daughters of our beloved Mrs. Jarvis - Alison and Jennifer:

On behalf of the alumni of Bishops’ High School New York Tri-State Chapter, we would like to offer you our heartfelt condolences on the passing of your mother, our former headmistress and friend, Mrs. Carmen Enid Peterkin Jarvis.

I know that I speak for all of the men and women who had the distinct pleasure of being taught by your mother or were fortunate enough to have her in their lives during our formative years at Bishops’ when I say that she was indeed a remarkable woman.

There have been many things said in tribute to Mrs. Jarvis. Some spoke of her leadership; others her vision, mentorship and the high standards that she demanded of us during her tenure at our beloved high school. But there was also a caring side, and many will tell you that she was also a nurturer when necessary or a source of inspiration when that was needed.

Mrs. Jarvis could be friendly—she had a very disarming smile—and she could be stern. But as students of Bishops’, we knew that, more than anything, she demanded excellence and made sure that we understood that excellence was what was expected of us.

Mrs. Jarvis leaves us with a legacy—one that says be bold when necessary, be kind when needed, be endearing and courteous, but always strive for excellence.

We will all miss her.

Wayne Knight
President
Bishops’ High School Alumni Association
New York Tri-State Chapter

I can’t think of a time when I wasn’t aware of Mrs. Carmen E. Jarvis. For one, she and my mother were childhood friends, attending Bishops’ High School at the same time. Her photograph hung on one of the walls in our house because she was a guest at my mother’s (Ovril Smith née Valz) very small wedding.

Then I went to Bishops’ where Mrs. Jarvis was deputy headmistress. While I was there, she became headmistress. What an example she set for us. She demanded excellence in our academics and our conduct, and she exemplified this every day. She was a model of what a young woman could achieve through hard work.

Mrs. Jarvis had three important careers. She was a teacher—at Smith Congregational School, Queen’s College, and then Bishops’. Upon retiring from Bishops’, she became deputy chief education officer in the Ministry of Education. After a few years, she became Secretary-General of the Guyana National Commission for UNESCO, representing Guyana with distinction.

Even though I was not a member of the Girl Guides Association, I, like probably all Bishops’ students, knew of her leadership role there. She was a faithful member of Smith Congregational Church and also was involved in many civic activities aimed at making Guyana a better place.

Mrs. Jarvis was very proud of the fact that she was able to work until she was 80, when she retired from UNESCO. But she did not sit in a rocking chair. She shared with me her excitement at learning to use a computer in her 80s. Receiving an email from her always put a smile on my face.

Over the last few years, my admiration for her grew as I watched her grit and determination as she continued to travel and to participate in life’s activities rather than just staying home. I also saw her sense of humor—something I didn’t think about at Bishops’!

Mrs. Jarvis was a loving mother to Jennifer and Alison, who will miss her dearly. She was also a very proud grandmother, as well as a sister and an aunt.

Aunt Carmen, you have been an important part of our lives and an inspiration. We will always remember you. May your soul rest in peace.

Dr. Patricia Cambridge
For most of her life, Mrs Carmen Jarvis, nee Peterkin, was a devoted volunteer in the world’s largest voluntary organization for girls and young women, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, better known as WAGGGS. She joined the movement as a ranger cadet and began her long and fruitful excursion helping girls and young women to achieve their full potential.

As a young guide leader, she was granted a British Council Bursary to study guiding for eight and a half months. This training led her to be the first guide leader from the Caribbean to obtain a Trainer’s Certificate, followed by the Guide Trainer’s Diploma. She was responsible for training and testing guide leaders throughout the Caribbean. She was also Chair of the Caribbean Link of Guiding.

Not content with being a trail blazer for guiding in the Caribbean, Mrs. Jarvis was elected to be a member of the Western Hemisphere Committee of WAGGS and later was a substitute member on the World Committee of WAGGGS.

At the national level, as Chief Commissioner, she spearheaded Guyana’s Golden Jubilee Celebration of Girl Guiding in Guyana. She later served as President of the Guyana Girl Guides Association for 14 years. Her belief in and commitment to Guiding led her to become a member of the Olave Baden-Powell Society, which is a global network of WAGGGS supporters who provide vital financial help to the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement.

Despite her retirement from active guiding, Mrs. Jarvis maintained her interest in the activities of the Guyana Girl Guides Association. In or out of Guyana, she maintained contact. Through her work, she leaves behind a rich legacy and inspiration to all in this great movement for girls and young women. She was a dedicated individual who served in many capacities in the association—most importantly, as Chief Commissioner and President.

Her sterling contribution will always be cherished by the President and members of the National Council of the Girl Guides Association, the Chief Commissioner and executive members, commissioners, guiders, rangers, guides and brownies. We convey our deepest sympathies to her daughters and other relatives.

May her soul rest in Peace.

Mrs. Gloria L. Thompson, President

A TRIBUTE FROM THE GUYANA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATING GUYANESE WOMEN: IN INDUSTRY

90 YEAR OLD RETIRED SUGAR-WORKER AUNTY CHALMA

Aunty Chalma, 90, is the oldest surviving worker of the Leonora Sugar Estate. Her parents were born in India and came to Guyana to work on the sugar plantations.

The Bishops’ High School Alumni Association NY Tri-State Chapter invites you to Jazz Under the Stars
Saturday, May 27 2017 from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight, 86 Pennsylvania Ave., Mount Vernon, NY. 10552.

MUSIC We invite you to enjoy the music of Jazz Saxophonist Mark Gross and his Quartet http://www.markgrossmusic.com featuring vocalist Monica Harris. You will also be treated to some Caribbean ‘spice’ with the smooth rhythms of live steel pan by Jah-pan-Man, (AKA) Michael Williams.

A two-time Grammy award winner, Mark Gross has toured the world with numerous jazz greats including Nat Adderley, Dave Holland, Nicholas Payton, Wynton Marsalis, Dizzy Gillespie, Nancy Wilson, Jimmy Heath, Duke Ellington Orchestra, Charles Mingus Big Band, Freddie Hubbard, and Regina Carter to name a few.

His professional relationships with these musicians and others have been long lasting and far-reaching: "Two-time Grammy award winner with the Dave Holland Big Band, Mark Gross has recorded on over 40 notable jazz recordings, such as ‘What Goes Around’ and ‘Overtime’. Gross has recorded 3 CDs under his own name to date. ‘Preach Daddy’, ‘Riddle of the Sphinx’ and his latest recording released ‘Blackside’. His consistently professional musicianship has led to live and recorded efforts with many of his fellow pacesetters in jazz music”.

FOOD AND DRINKS Be prepared to partake in a smorgasbord of international cuisine with drinks from around the world. Take a culinary journey with us and explore the taste and flavors of India, Guyana and the Caribbean, Mexico, Puerto Rico, China, Japan, Italy, France and the USA. Discover mouthwatering treats expertly crafted for you by our world class chefs - curries, dim sum, the Jerk Pit, pastas, seafood, vegetarian dishes and many other specialties. And just when you think your taste buds have been fully challenged, head over to the dessert buffet where you will find our sweet treats - from New York cheese cakes to Cuban flan, Southern pecan pies to Italian cookies. These are just a few of the enticing treats that await you.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets can be purchased by clicking on the link: https://www.tickettailor.com/checkout/view-event/id/87777/chk/6c3b/
CELEBRATING GUYANESE WOMEN: IN POLITICS

Catherine A. Hughes
LIFE OF SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Catherine Andrea Hughes (Cholmondeley) was born in Georgetown, Guyana and is a former student and head girl of St. Rose’s High School. Ms. Hughes attended the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus where she graduated with honours with a degree in Mass Communications, after which she pursued postgraduate training in Management, Training and Development in Liverpool, England.

After university, Cathy as she is fondly referred to, began her professional career as a Television Producer gaining extensive knowledge of the Caribbean media and advertising environment over a twenty-five year period.

Cathy Hughes has worked in the media in Guyana, the Caribbean and internationally. She commenced her career as a TV news reporter in Jamaica, then worked as a freelance radio reporter with the BBC’s Radio Merseyside in Liverpool, England and subsequently as a television producer for the Local Edition of CNN’s Headline News in Texas, USA.

Ms. Hughes returned to Guyana in 1993 and established Videomega Productions, a state of the art digital video production facility and advertising agency with a strong reputation in the production of high quality documentary programming.

Over the years she has served as Director of several family owned businesses including a thriving law practice, a boutique hotel and a jazz club.

Catherine Hughes has always been a vibrant and outspoken speaker on social, economic and political issues in Guyana as well as an active participant in several non-governmental organisations. These included as a founding member of Guyana Is First, a movement dedicated to uniting Guyanese across the racial and political divide, and as executive member of Women Against Violence Everywhere, WAVE, dedicated to fighting violence against women.

Ministry of Public Telecommunications
But Cathy Hughes is probably best known as an advocate for the development of Guyana’s tourism industry.

She served two terms as President of the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana, a private sector organisation dedicated to the improvement of the Tourism industry.

In 2005 Cathy Hughes played an integral role in the formation of the Alliance For Change, AFC, a new political party, which challenged the two major parties, which had dominated and defined the political landscape of the Guyana for over fifty years. The AFC enjoyed unprecedented success in its first electoral outing gaining a historic five seats. The message of the AFC was unity.

In 2011 Ms. Hughes was elected a member of the National Assembly, Guyana’s Parliament where she was appointed a member of the Foreign Relations committee a position she held until the National Assembly was prorogued as result of a “no confidence” vote led by the AFC.

After the historic General Elections of May 2015, which saw a change of Government in Guyana after twenty-three years, the Alliance For Change became a formidable strategic partner in the new coalition government.

Cathy Hughes was then entrusted with responsibilities of Minister of Tourism where she enjoyed considerable success in transforming the Ministry and increasing the profile of the country internationally.

In January of 2016 her portfolio was expanded when Cathy was appointed Guyana’s first Minister of Public Telecommunications, a position held by few women in the ICT field in the Caribbean and internationally.

Minister Hughes is committed to promoting and implementing Government’s vision of increasing the use of Information, Communication Technology – as a critical component in Guyana’s development agenda.

Ms. Hughes is currently focused on creating a digital government, and increasing broadband and internet connectivity in the transformation of Guyana.

Cathy Hughes continues to be excited about Guyana’s future.

Mrs Hughes will be guest of honor at the 23rd Anniversary Gala of the St. Rose’s Alumni Association USA Inc to be held in New York on August 31, 2017.
FIRST FEMALE DIRECTOR OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE BAND

Women continue to tear down barriers and create history with their achievements all across the world; here in Guyana, Superintendent Charmaine Stuart has been added to the list. Writing her name in the history books, she earlier this month became the first Band Mistress for the Guyana Police Force, which was established 177 years ago, and it is believed that she is the first woman to achieve this feat in the Caribbean.

Her elevation to the post comes after over 30 years of dedicated service in the Police Force. Stuart has replaced Assistant Commissioner Cecil Bovell. Stuart understands what this accomplishment means for women on the whole.

“It’s really a good feeling to know that you’re the first female band master,” Stuart said in an interview with the Sunday Chronicle. She sported a smile that said she wanted to be humble about what she has achieved, but that she also wanted to scream from the rooftop.

“It means a lot to me because I realize I’m the first female not only in Guyana but in the Caribbean; and for me it’s a boost to a lot of women.

“It makes women feel that they can reach the top – whatever they aim for they can reach, and hats off to those female who reached the top like me.”

Stuart, 51, is not the only one appreciating the change. Another female band member noted what an inspiration Stuart is to the others. “It’s good because she’s the first female not only in Guyana but in the Caribbean; and for me it’s a boost to a lot of women.

“Some of those under Stuart’s stewardship are proud to see her at the helm.

“It has been a long time coming,” quipped one of the female band members. Over 10 years in the band, the Lance Corporal noted that he is proud of the level of excellence she has brought.

“Although we have some excellent female players in the band with excellent qualifications, it has been a long time coming and I think we will enjoy the change. We’re still in change mode, but she has been Deput (of the Band) for a while and we know what she brings – she brings quality.”

Another female band member noted what an inspiration Stuart is to the others. “It’s good because she’s the first female to be a band master, so it’s really a proud moment.”

Though she now serves a role model, she said that there were many she looked up to on her road of development.

“I had three females in the Guyana Police Force that were my role models: Assistant Commissioner Claire Jarvis, who retired; Assistant Commissioner Carol Primus, who’s also retired; and also Ingrid Welcher. Those were the persons I looked up to and admired the way that they carried themselves; they never stood for anything that was not correct,” Stuart expressed.

Being a part of a male dominated arena never got to her. So it was never a question for her when she made the decision to join the Force. She says it’s all about how you conduct yourself.

“When you come into an organization, you have to condition your mind that this is what I’m going into and it’s totally different from what I’m used to and you got to start conditioning your mind to a certain discipline that is expected of you.

“I wouldn’t say there are challenges, as much as I would say it’s how you sell yourself to the Force. If you come with the aim that you only want to achieve and not put in the work, that makes it difficult.

“And you also have to have a love and a passion for the job that you do. If you don’t have a love and a passion for the job that you do you will always have difficulties.”

It all began for Charmaine when she took up music at the Houston Community High School, while she was living in Agricola, East Bank Demerara. She later attended Alleyne’s High School, and subsequently spent a work study stint at the Police Band Room, and found it only natural that she returned there to work when she completed school at the age of 17.

“At Houston Community High…there was a music teacher by the name of Cheryl Jarvis. She used to teach music and dance, and from there I started playing the recorder and then I was sent on work study in the Police Band Room.”

“Realizing that I had the ability to do music, I was taught to play the clarinet and I was taught to read music at the Police band room and that is the reason why I’m still here. After completing school, I thought I should return to the Guyana Police Force band and continue my career. So in 1980, I think it was, I became a band apprentice, and in 1983 I was sworn in as a constable.”

As the years moved on, Stuart continued to move through the ranks, and as the bumps in the road came along, Stuart overcame them with ease and refused to let anything stand in her way of her love for music and being part of the band. One particular encounter Stuart recalls is when she became and mother and had to learn how to juggle the demands of motherhood and the demands of being part of the band. But thanks to kind support of others, she was able to make it all work smoothly. “...when I started making children, the band job sometimes became difficult but then I had supervisors and officers to talk to and they assisted me. “Sometimes they would say, ‘Look, we have other persons at your stand playing, we can afford to ease you.’ Sometimes when the band used to play out, I used to walk with them (the children); they used to be on the bus with me. I used to prepare everything for them and I take them along with me.

“I would like to thank the Commissioner and his admin team, and also every member of the Force who supported me throughout my years on the Force, especially the members of the GPF band. She also praised her previous boss, retired Assistant Commissioner Bovell.

“I know I can call on him at any time if I am in a difficulty.

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The Facebook post titled “WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH 2017” on March 11, declared its purpose was the celebration of the contributions of women to music in Guyana. The post included a partial list—starting with Mrs. Ayres’s 1846 advertisement in the Berbice Gazette. The post also invited additional names and photographs.

A rich conversation followed as readers reflected on the list and the accompanying photographs. This list is the result of a conversation recognizing and celebrating the contributions of women to music in Guyana during Women’s History Month 2017.

Mrs. Ayres, Joyce Aaron Elcock, Olivia Benjamin-Ahyoung, Patricia Arthur, Princess Amisa, Sheila Bacchus, Cecelene Baird, Niesha Benjamin, “Dougla” Betty, Charmaine Blackman, Cecilia Clementine Boody, Rotha Bowen, Viola Burnham, June Bunyan, Cecile Burgan, Barbara Burrowes, Dr. Patricia Camridge (Smith), Barbara Canterbury, Serena Callender, Monica Chopperfield (Lady Guymine), Valerie Doddett, Mrs. Sybil Daniels-Husbands, Ivy K.D. Davis, Yonette Dandrade, Lillian Dewar, Lucille Dewar, Marilyn P. Dewar, Edna DeWeever, Celeste Dolphin, Lynette Dolphin, Nellie Dos Santos, Dougla Elsie, Lady Explainer, Dr. Juliet Emanuel, Joyce Ferdinand, Dawn Forde Arno, Rita Forrester, Florizel Francis, Alyce Fraser, Mrs. Garraway, Dr. Keau Gibson, Shirley Field-Ridley, Mrs. Fox, Joan Gilkes, Trizxe Gouveia, Doreen Gravesande, Sheila Grenado, Iris Grimes, Doris Harper-Wills, Joyce Urmilla Harris, Annie Haynes, Sybil Haynes, Serena Hewitt, Martha Ruby Holland, Jessie Heath, Dr. Enid Housty, Cicely Hoyte, Sibyl Haynes, Nicolette Henry, Rosemary Husbands-Henry, Sybil Husbands, Janet Hunte.

Alyce Fraser-Denny

Starting in the 1920s, this British Guiana-born and New York-based soprano was very popular in the colony’s concert circuit. Her concerts did much to popularize Negro Spirituals in the society. A bust in her honor was unveiled in Guyana’s National Cultural Center on August 12, 1992.

Joyce Ferdinand was born in New Amsterdam in 1923 and was described as a child protégée. Her first music teacher was her mother, Edith Ferdinand. She started piano lessons at the age of three. Ferdinand’s other teacher in British Guiana was Mrs. Ruby McGregor. It was under her tutelage that Ferdinand earned the Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music (Piano Performing) in 1948. By 1951, Ferdinand was the toast of the nation. She dominated classical music and was celebrated for her performances on the British Council broadcasts. She was awarded a British Council Scholarship in the early 1960s and studied at the Trinity College of Music in London. She was awarded the Fellowship of the Trinity College of Music (FTCL) in 1964.
CELEBRATING GUYANESE WOMEN: IN MUSIC


Vesta Lowe was a multidimensional woman-teacher, singer, musician, folk song collector, and rural development professional. She was a pioneer in so many aspects of life. She was among the first batch of teachers to graduate from the Teachers’ Training College. She is considered to be the first Black woman to graduate from Tuskegee Institute with a B.Sc. (Honors) degree in Home Economics. Lynette Dolphin described Vesta Lowe as “the pioneer in the field of Folk Song preservation” in Guyana as she “collected the music from various rural districts and the hinterland and popularized it in choral form at concerts presented by the Dawson Music Lovers Club and the Vesta Lowe Choir.” Vesta Lowe, front row, center with choir. For more on Vesta Lowe, visit: http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/news303/ns3091412.htm

Edith Pieters “Absolutely brilliant soprano, BHS music teacher, led the Bishop’s choir to victory and victory at Music Festival. Beautiful classy young woman.” (Dawn Forde-Amo, March 11, 2017). “She is a capsule of the Guyanese past, a period in which music did not emanate from gigantic stereo systems and CD players on public transportation, but from stages, bandstand concerts and music festivals. “The environment is different,” she said. “It does not facilitate learning. The most fulfilling thing is my relationship with the people I teach.” Miss Pieters taught me music.” (Valerie Coddett, March 12, 2017)

Valerie Rodway, CCH, LRCM Valerie Rodway, CCH, LRCM (1919-1970), was born in New Amsterdam. She was the fourth daughter and the fifth of eight children. She was trained by the leading music teachers of her time – Winifred McDavid, Ruby McGregor, Edna Jordan, and Eleanor Kerry. She is best known for her national songs, which include, “O Beautiful Guyana,” “Kanaïma,” “Hymn for Guyana’s Children,” “Arise, Guyana,” and “Guyana the Free.”

Sookraj, Superintendent Charmaine Stuart, Alice Bhagwandien Singh, Pritha Singh, Radha Singh, Rajkumari Singh, “Sugar Cake Girls,” Dorothy Taitt, Helen Taitt, Gail Teixeira, Lady Tempest, Pauline Thomas, Sister Vanessa Sinclair, Melissa Roberts (Vanilla), Bernice Waddell, Woodside Choir, Queen Yasmin,

On this still incomplete list are music teachers, composers, performers, researchers, scholars, community leaders, mentors, role models, public servants, and politicians who have influenced musical life in Guyana during the past 170 years. We extend our sincere thanks.

The conversation continues on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/vibert.cambridge/posts/101543024435707849

For more information on most of the persons on the list, please consult “Musical Life in Guyana: History and Politics of Controlling Creativity” (paperback edition now available at University Press of Mississippi (http://www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1996) or at Amazon and other online bookstores: https://www.amazon.com/Musical-Life-Guyana-Con...

Elsie Dougla Elsie Sargeant and Kassri Narine (Kaytie)

“In the annals of East Indian music of Guyana, the contribution of women who worked on the plantations and estates is unquestionably extraordinary. For generations, a group of women from Grove, East Bank Demerara - all members of a weeding gang, made some of the most remarkable folk music. While this essay attempts to celebrate two of them - Elsie Sargeant popularly known as ‘Dougla’ Elsie and Kassri Narine, called ‘Kaytie’ - it also honours in spirit their multi-talented supporting cast, all of whom have since died: Sundarie, Sumintra aka ‘Lada,’ Budnee, Durlari called ‘Sardaren,’ Kawalpatie, and Sajaan Ramotar. Each was a singer in her own right, and many were efficient on the dholak (drum).”

Extract from article # 7, “Dougla’ Elsie and ‘Kaytie’ of Grove” by Rakesh Rampertab in the Stabroek News series “Celebrating Our Creative Personalities.”

Rosemary Ramdehol LRAM, ARCM, pianist, organist, music teacher. In 1951, she became one of a few Guyanese to win the prestigious scholarship awarded by the Royal Schools of Music to the West Indian student earning the highest scores in the Grade 8 examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM).to the Royal Schools of Music. Before her were Philip Pilgrim (1935), William “Billy” Pilgrim (1937), Lynette Dolphin (1938).

Photograph courtesy of Wayne McWatt.

Dr. Dawn Forde-Arno.

Queen’s College has national ‘cred’ as a steel band powerhouse ... [in 2017], the Queen’s College Steel Orchestra won the small school bands competition. The official start of pan at QC may be associated with initiatives by Dr. Dawn Forde-Arno in 1970.” For more details on Dawn Forde-Arno and music at Queen’s College, see: “The Queen’s College Assembly Hall/The Auditorium: 1951-1976”and “The Women who built QC’s musical heritage” in Laude--a special publication to mark the school’s 170th anniversary in 2014.

Avis Joseph, GRSM.

In 1971, she became one of a small number of Guyanese to win the prestigious scholarship offered by the Royal Schools of Music to the West Indian student earning the highest scores in the Grade 8 examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). Other Guyanese to win this scholarship before include: Philip Pilgrim (1935), William “Billy” Pilgrim (1937), Lynette Dolphin (1938), and Rosemary Ramdehol (1951).
Melissa Roberts (Vanilla), Road March Champion, Mashramani 2017. “Every time I win the road march people continuously ask me how I feel about it. Now that I’ve won it 6 times they are even more curious to know how I feel. My response on a win is usually, “I’m happy, I feel good” and then the next question would be and “how you just deh so normal”. I can’t help but smile every time at the statement. Today when i was once again asked the question I decide to answer the way i truly feel. “I came from a family with humble beginnings and nuff love. The humble personality you see in me was transferred from my mom”. Thank you, thank you, thank you MOM for your love and the values you instilled in me. Oh how I wish you were here to see the flower your daughter have blossomed into.”(Melissa Roberts, March 3, 2017)

Vanilla has won the Road March Competition for six times.

Roxanne Reece spent the first dozen years of her working life in banking both in the UK & Guyana & while she has more or less covered all areas in retail banking, has spent a major amount of her banking life in Foreign International Payments. In 1983 she was tasked with negotiating an aviation permit (AOC) for Wings Aviation Ltd. After successfully negotiating this permit she became a founding member of Wings Aviation Ltd, in 1984. This was the first permit granted in almost 20 years in Guyana and the first to a black group. As the company Secretary/Director, she was responsible for setting up the business arm & Supporting Services of the company, including HR & Accounts.

The Wings Aviation Hangar which is located at The Ogle International Airport, was designed & supervised by Roxanne Reece. She spent two years of her life making sure that the building was built to the correct specifications. It is the largest & most modern facility of its kind in the entire Caribbean. Her main interests are reading, designing jewelry, clothing & buildings. Besides the Wings Aviation Hangar, she has been fortunate to have redesigned two other buildings and built another completely from start.

Roxanne designs jewelry for herself & family & has made several pieces in both gold & silver for various family members. For several years she owned & designed for Raffinee, which was located on Main St in Georgetown. Raffinee promoted hand painted & tie dyed cotton products & did many fundraising fashion shows for several organizations in Guyana, as well as Sanata.

In 2011 with her husband Paul Ronald Reece she co-founded Fly Jamaica Airways the first black owned international airline in North America, South America & the Caribbean.

Today Wings Aviation & Fly Jamaica Airways employ more than three hundred & sixty staff worldwide and fly domestically within Guyana to over 55 locations & internationally to four destinations, NY, Toronto, Georgetown & Kingston.

Over the last four years Wings Aviation Ltd & Fly Jamaica have partnered with over three hundred, NGOs, associations, schools, churches, individuals, & other organizations in Guyana, Jamaica, The USA & Canada. The diaspora associations & organizations of both Jamaica & Guyana are some main partners. Areas covered range from education, sports, medical, arts, music, trade shows, to cooking.

Frank Denbow
CELEBRATING GUYANESE: IN FILM

Conversation with young Guyanese filmmakers Chelsea and Emann Odufu regarding their hit film

Ori Inu:
In Search of Self

Guyana Folk Fest: What does “Ori Inu” mean and why is it important?

Chelsea: ORI INU is a Yoruba phrase that literally translates to mean inner head. In essence, it is the spiritual force within all of us that guides us to our destiny. With this film we are encouraging people to take the time to look inwards and find themselves so as to tap into their true purpose in life and reach their full potential.

Emann: Especially in a world where society and the media have a profound role in determining how we see ourselves, we believe it is extremely important to know who we are outside the predetermined roles society creates for us based on things like race, gender and ethnicity. ORI INU is a call to define your own identity outside of a societal structure that seeks to place us in boxes. For us, as creators of African descent, it means examining our past and ancestry, especially the aspects that were denied us as African Diaspora persons through slavery and colonialism.

Guyana Folk Fest: Why did you decide to create this film? What were some of the film’s inspirations?

Emann: At that time I was looking outside the confines of traditional western religions to define my own spirituality. I was also reading a book by famed poet, Ishmael Reed, called “Mumbo Jumbo” where I learned about his theory of Neo HooDoo where he claimed that African spirituality, though it has been relegated to the shadows by society, has stayed alive in art, music and traditions of the African Diaspora people even though in some cases we are unaware of its ties to African culture. I also attended a Kwe Kwe celebration at Guyana Folk Fest and became very interested in how African culture and beliefs are not only still practised in Guyana, but also in South America, the Caribbean and other places as well. The creation of our film came from this search to define our identity and spirituality by looking at unconventional sources for inspiration.

Guyana Folk Fest: What does “Ori Inu” mean and why is it important?

Chelsea: ORI INU is a Yoruba phrase that literally translates to mean inner head. In essence, it is the spiritual force within all of us that guides us to our destiny. With this film we are encouraging people to take the time to look inwards and find themselves so as to tap into their true purpose in life and reach their full potential.
Guyana Folk Festival: How does your Guyanese heritage play into the types of stories you tell?

Chelsea: I would say that our Guyanese heritage is seen mostly in the magical realism of our film. Growing up we always heard stories and folk tales from Guyana that seem to exist outside the realm of what we saw in our daily lives. Growing up in Newark, NJ these stories opened us up to the idea of magical realism in story telling and the types of stories we tell blend reality and fantasy. The stories that were told to us by our Guyanese grandmother when we were kids greatly influenced our work.

Emann: Art reflects the times in which it is made. Especially in a time in America where as black people we are constantly being told through the media that our lives don’t matter, it is important for us to define our identity for ourselves. ORI INU encourages people to begin the process of defining their own identity. I would argue that this is something that is universal whether or not you are of African descent. It is a message to which all people can relate regardless of whether you are Asian, Jewish, Muslim etc.

Guyana Folk Festival: What were your childhoods like? Were art, religion and race early fixtures in your raising?

Chelsea: The film started as an NYU Tisch School of the Arts thesis Project as I was a senior at NYU at that time. I wanted to make a film that also captured our background of being black but culturally Guyanese/Nigerian. Around that time my brother Emann showed me an NPR article about Condomble and the religious persecution practitioners of the religion were facing in Brazil and I really took to the story. At that time, I was also shooting music videos for the musical duo OSHUN NYC who are practitioners of African spirituality. Those collaborations, as well as the desire to make a film that portrayed black divinity on screen led us to move forward with the creation of ORI INU.

Guyana Folk Festival: What’s next for you guys as film makers and creators?

Chelsea: We are currently working on a Web Series called “Black Lady Goddess” and we just shot the pilot episode in January. We are also working on writing our first feature, which I can’t wait to see. We are also working on a few projects around which we are passionate and we hope to release these through out the year.

Guyana Folk Festival: Between you guys, which person would you have to agree with the most?

Chelsea: I agree with my brother. The arts always played a huge role in our family and it is what brought us together. For me I was always interested in film and from about the age of 13 I began taking film and photography classes at the Parsons School of Design in NYC. In terms of race, we grew up in Newark, NJ which is a chocolate city and predominantly African American. However, because we were of Guyanese/Nigerian descent we were always outsiders in a sense. We weren’t African American like all of our friends. We had Nigerian last names which made us a little different from our Guyanese family and we were too American to completely fit in with our Nigerian family. This confusion of identity definitely played a role in us exploring the complexities of black identity in ORI INU.

Guyana Folk Festival: What were your childhoods like? Were art, religion and race early fixtures in your raising?

Emann: We grew up in a Guyanese household in Newark, NJ where our mother Deirdre Johnson-Odufu who is also the executive producer of the film, really exposed us to all types of art and music including soca, jazz, and fine art. We were always encouraged to be ourselves and be creative. We actually grew up being raised in a Christian household and I believe that a strong spiritual upbringing is why spirituality plays such a big roll in our lives today.

Guyana Folk Festival: What do you think is the unifying theme of ORI INU?

Emann: I believe great art reflects the times in which it is made. Especially in a time in America where as black people we are constantly being told through the media that our lives don’t matter, it is important for us to define our identity for ourselves. ORI INU encourages people to begin the process of defining their own identity. I would argue that this is something that is universal whether or not you are of African descent. It is a message to which all people can relate regardless of whether you are Asian, Jewish, Muslim etc.

Guyana Folk Festival: Why does this film need to be seen? Why do you think it is resonating with so many people around the world?

Chelsea: I think it’s extremely important that we see positive images of Black people especially black women on screen. ORI INU is a story told from the vantage point of a black immigrant woman who is taking the steps to empower herself. Especially today where steps are being taken to silence the voices of immigrants and women in America, this film is important. Black Spirituality matters. Black women matter. This film is unapologetic in its celebration of the richness of Black and African culture. More narratives that tell positive stories about who we are as a people are needed today.

Guyana Folk Festival: Ori In: In Search of Self focuses on going home to embrace your culture and your roots. Do you guys have any plans to go home to Guyana with the film?

Chelsea: Yes. We are actually going to screen our film in the Timehri film Festival in Georgetown, Guyana in late May/ Early June. We are super excited about this and hope to go to Guyana for the screening, which will be our first time there.

Emann: Yes, it’s kind of ironic that in making a film where our protagonist goes home so as to find herself, that we will be taking our film home to Guyana where we will be able to embrace our rich culture and heritage even more.

Guyana Folk Festival: What are your plans for the film?

Emann: We are actually going to screen our film in the Timehri film Festival in Georgetown, Guyana in late May/ Early June. We are super excited about this and hope to go to Guyana for the screening, which will be our first time there.
Derek Walcott was the Adjudicator.
The BEST ACTOR prize that year. A youthful Prize in the Junior Section of the Festival. I won their play "The Promised land", which won First photo of the players of the Buxton Group with Graphic of November 14, 1965. Along with it, is a There is a report in the (now defunct) Sunday Festivals started way back in the early 1960s. years ago, when in FACT National Drama There are some among us who are trying to rewrite Guyanese history, and so the effort in this area. There are some among us who are trying to rewrite Guyanese history, and so the FACTS must be made known. An example is the National Drama Festivals. There is someone who keeps stating openly that Tom Charles and the Syncopators? REALLY! It’s one thing to be advanced in age and to forget some things of the past, including some of the things which gave so many of us so much joy, and improved our quality of life in our small third world country. Then, as you would appreciate, there is a growing number of Guyanese who have never even heard the name Tom Charles, or Harry Whittaker, for that matter. So, let’s begin at the very beginning – a very good place to start. Thomas Benjamin Charles, a native of Victoria Village on the East Coast Demerara, was one of Guyana’s great drummers. He was also the founder of one of the most popular Musical Bands in the history of British Guiana/Guyana. The Band was known as Tom Charles and the Syncopators and I feel obliged to throw the spotlight on that great Guyanese and that great Band, during this Jubilee Year. There needs to be more all-round knowledge of our Guyanese history. And during this Jubilee Year, there must be a greater effort in this area. There are some among us who are trying to rewrite Guyanese history, and so the FACTS must be made known.

As Guyana already forgotten Tom Charles and the Syncopators? REALLY! It’s one thing to be advanced in age and to forget some things of the past, including some of the things which gave so many of us so much joy, and improved our quality of life in our small third world country. Then, as you would appreciate, there is a growing number of Guyanese who have never even heard the name Tom Charles, or Harry Whittaker, for that matter. So, let’s begin at the very beginning – a very good place to start. Thomas Benjamin Charles, a native of Victoria Village on the East Coast Demerara, was one of Guyana’s great drummers. He was also the founder of one of the most popular Musical Bands in the history of British Guiana/Guyana. The Band was known as Tom Charles and the Syncopators and I feel obliged to throw the spotlight on that great Guyanese and that great Band, during this Jubilee Year. There needs to be more all-round knowledge of our Guyanese history. And during this Jubilee Year, there must be a greater effort in this area. There are some among us who are trying to rewrite Guyanese history, and so the FACTS must be made known.

An example is the National Drama Festivals. There is someone who keeps stating openly that the National Drama Festivals began just a few years ago, when in FACT National Drama Festivals started way back in the early 1960s. There is a report in the (now defunct) Sunday Graphic of November 14, 1965. Along with it, is a photo of the players of the Buxton Group with their play "The Promised land", which won First Prize in the Junior Section of the Festival. I won the BEST ACTOR prize that year. A youthful Derek Walcott was the Adjudicator.

The reign of "Tom Charles and the Syncopators" was from around the late 1940s and on into the 1970s. Its demise came when the Police placed a midnight ban on parties in Guyana, resulting in almost zero work for the Band.

Tom Charles then migrated to the United States where he died many years later. It was Guyana’s loss. Some years ago, I had the privilege and honour to do an on-camera interview with Tom Charles while he was in exile, at his Washington, DC, home. It was about a year before his passing. At the end of that interview, with tears in his eyes, Tom presented me with a few photographs of the Band over the years. He wrote the information of the scenes at the back of each photograph, with his own hand. I treasure those photographs, a few which now accompany this article.
Over the years, vocalists with the band included Ulric Gouveia, Annie Haynes, Ina Vyphuis, and Monica Chopperfield (Lady Guymine). Those vocalists were all stars in their own right, and sang a wide range of local and international compositions. That was the era of great live entertainment in British Guiana.

Even though the colony was ruled by an overseas political power, Great Britain, located thousands of miles away, many Guyanese with creative talents worked for the development of our own Guyanese culture, in the entertainment field in particular. That passion for the development of Guyanese culture intensified as independence grew closer.

During his exile years in the United States, Tom Charles played the drums for New Amsterdam native, Stella Clarke, and her Dancing Dolls group which was located in Washington, D.C. He was active almost to the very end. Guyana was so much the richer for having Tom Charles and the Syncopators playing the kind of music which the people just loved, and it would be a shame if his name becomes totally unknown by the present and future generations of Guyanese, especially those involved with music. One sure way to ensure that this does not happen is for the radio stations to play the music of Tom Charles and the Syncopators. And that really, should not be difficult.
GPS in the jungle

Wai-Wais in the remote southern district of Kanashen have been trained in the use of cutting-edge software, smartphones and GPS to gather data and assess carbon stocks, thanks to a pioneering two-year project by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Mobile phones are nothing new, even in this isolated area on the fringes of the Amazon Basin, a punishing six-day journey by tractor and boat from the nearest town.

But the way they are being used to navigate the forest and record eco data marks a significant departure from tradition.

"Our people used to manage the community just on our own. But since WWF came in and trained our young people, we manage it far better than before," Mr Mawasha explains.

"We did not have instruments before like GPS; we used to cut lines so we didn't get lost in the jungle," he says, referring to the practice of hacking a trail through the trees with a machete.

"We are very happy with the training. We tell our young people, we manage it far better than before," Mr Mawasha explains.

"Satellite images are not always accurately interpreted so they do what we call 'ground-truth,'" Mr. Hutchinson says.

"The Wai-Wai went all over their titled land, gathering data so we can be really accurate in assessing how much carbon they have in their forests," Mr. Hutchinson tells the BBC.

"Because the size of the uninhabited land is so large, the Wai-Wai are pivotal in identifying precisely what is forest and what is not.

"The Wai-Wai have been the caretakers of the natural world for millennia. Their knowledge of the land and the wildlife is second to none, and they are making a valuable contribution to the overall data Guyana produces," Mr Hutchinson explains.

Saving grace

Lush forest still covers almost 85% of the country's landmass; the trees' low market value when chopped down and sold as timber has been their saving grace.

"Guyana has enormous opportunity with its resources and small population," Mr Hutchinson adds. "It's vital to hold on to these forests.

"If we don't, it's the poor people that suffer. There's a saying, when elephants fight it's the grass that suffers. They are the people who will bear the brunt."
Emil Seon lived at Malali in a cottage which he built on a sand hill overlooking a series of rapids in the Demerara River below. It was 6.30 p.m. and he was busily engaged in getting dressed to attend a traditional Easter Saturday family party across the river. The family usually spent Easter Saturday night singing native Amerindian songs, drinking sleepy tonic made from sweet potatoes, and eating boiled cassava, yams and smoked labba. The party ended at 11.30 and Emil hurried to return to his home. Frightening tales were many about strange happenings in the dense forest area that surrounded the Malali Settlement on both sides of the river. Paddling as fast as he could, he reached the other bank of the river, pulled his canoe ashore as far as he could and set out for his home. He perspired as he walked up the narrow sandy pathway. It was a hot tropical rainforest night. A bright light suddenly lit up the forest on his left. He peered at it and stopped dead in his tracks. The golden ray shone from the sky on a tall eucalyptus tree. His attention was attracted to the pale white trunk of the tree on which he saw something moving along it, downwards. He stepped away from the open sand path and walked closer to the centre of his attention. He spotted a clump of thick bushes and stopped behind it. He brushed away a large fly as he stared at the tree. The moving object was a long, fat snake. It was taking its time as it moved along the tree trunk to the ground. It reached the bushy ground and slithered along it. Emil looked at his wrist watch. It was midnight. The golden ray of light changed to red as it covered the body of the snake. Emil’s eyes nearly popped out of his head when he beheld a transformation the creature was undergoing within the red ray of light. Slowly but surely, the snake was taking the shape of a beautiful Amerindian woman. She stood to her full height and stretched. She was completely naked. The colour of the ray of light changed back to its original golden colour.

A noise to the left of where the woman drew his attention. He saw a deer emerge from behind the trees and walked slowly to the woman. It walked into the golden light, raised his head upwards and allowed its body to be completely covered by the magic light. It suddenly changed into a man. He walked to the woman and they embraced and lowered themselves to the ground, making love. Out of a nearby mahogany tree flew a large black jumbee bird. It landed not far from the couple on the ground. The golden light disappeared as the jumbee bird changed into a strange creature. It’s head was that of a goat with blood red eyes, its body that of a large monkey and its feet were those of a jaguar. It uttered a loud roar of agony and ran to the couple. The man and woman, engaged in their love act as they were, failed to notice the demon. As it neared the, a bolt of lightning came from the sky and hit its neck. Its head fell to the ground and began rolling towards the river. The rest of the body imploded and disappeared. The head rolled and rolled and rolled, roaring in pain through its mouth, into the river. No sooner had it splashed into the river that a school of pirana rushed to it and devoured all except the bone skull in no time at all. The skull was carried away by a strong current. There was another explosion and all the piranas which ate the flesh from the head of the demon exploded into the air and the pieces fell on the rocks along the rapids and turned into large white worms which then wriggled into the river. Emil’s attention now turned to the man and the woman. They were nowhere to be seen. He looked to the eucalyptus tree and saw the same snake he saw before crawling up it. Looking to the forest, he saw the same deer he saw before running further into it. Emil ran to his home and could not sleep. What he saw was an awakening. He decided to leave Malali. He waited until morning, broke down the house and threw the pieces into the river below. He took his few belongings, put them in his canoe and paddled to Zion Hill, some distance away down river. There he made his new home, never to return to Malali again.

St. Rose’s Alumni Association USA Inc.
Anniversary Gala

Honoring
Cathy Cholmondeley-Hughes
Guyana Minister of Public Telecommunications
&
Fly Jamaica

Date: Thursday, August 31, 2017
Place: Russo’s on the Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard, Howard Beach, NY, 11414

Cocktails: 7:30 p.m. ~ Dinner: 8:30 p.m.
Dress: Formal
Donation: $125 (all inclusive)

Ticket info: 917-553-4154 | 718-342-7046 | 917-617-0277 | 917-921-8660
RSVP: no later than June 30, 2017
2017 SYMPOSIUM CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.

2017 SYMPOSIUM & LITERARY HANG

We Bridgin... Celebrating our Indigenous Culture

MISSION AND RATIONALE

The goal of the Symposium and Literary Hang is to improve knowledge about Guyana. Specifically, the organizers hope to make information about Guyana's indigenous heritage and culture accessible and to undermine negative stereotypes. The Guyana Cultural Association of New York invite papers, panels, displays, exhibitions, dances, papers, lectures, talks, and posters, to support the exploration of:

- creation stories of Guyana’s indigenous peoples.
- the state of Guyanese archeology
- science and technology in contemporary indigenous communities in Guyana
- Conservation and stewardship of “Guyana verde.”
- Innovations in contemporary Guyanese art
- Representation of the indigenous in Guyana’s creative imagination
- Visioning the future: Implementing Ministry of Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs’ sustainable development strategic plan
- Visioning the future: Implementing Ministry of Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs’ sustainable development strategic plan

OBJECTIVES

The organizers of the symposium anticipate the following outcomes:

- Contribute to the eradication of persistent negative racial and ethnic stereotypes in Guyanese society
- Contribute to the building of trust among Guyanese
- Contribute to the reinforcement of the bonds of solidarity and friendship
- Encourage and sustain creativity and achievement
- Support the visualization of an inclusive and caring Guyanese society
- Support scholarly research. Materials from the symposium will be deposited at the Guyana Arts & Cultural Center, Brooklyn, and the Amerindian Research Unit, University of Guyana. The materials collected will also be used as content in GCA’s radio, television, and on-line programming.

THE PROCESS

Persons interested in participating in the Symposium & Literary Hang are invited to register by proposing a provisional topic by May 30, 2017. Abstracts are due by June 30, 2017. Abstracts should not exceed 300 words and should be sent in electronic files to:

Dr. Vibert Cambridge - cambridg@ohio.edu
Dr. Juliet Emanuel - JAEMANUEL@cs.com

The Symposium & Literary Hang is scheduled for Thursday, August 31, and Saturday, September 2, 2017. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes. Specially invited presenters will be accorded more time.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Vibert Cambridge, President - cambridg@ohio.edu
Dr. Juliet Emanuel, Secretary - JAEMANUEL@cs.com

Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. on-line Magazine
THE LEGEND IS HERE IN TIME FOR YOU

POST-EMANCIPATION VILLAGES IN GUYANA: MAKING WORLD HISTORY

PHOTOGRAPHS OF VILLAGE FATHERS, VILLAGE MOTHERS, EDUCATORS, DEVELOPERS AND HISTORIANS, FROM THE PHOTO INSERT

This book was spoken, a real audio book, by Eusi Kwayana interviewed by David Hinds.

It is a rare and long awaited historical interview. It is a conversation of how former enslaved Africans in Guyana collectively bought villages. They pioneered human living, civic rights and social change.

Being their own lawgivers, Africans created rights they previously didn’t have. Hard facts, glimpses of culture, custom, and opinions of scholars are included in this book. Many important persons, unknown as villagers, are infused with life again, leap off the pages. This book celebrates the celebrated with many pages of a black-and-white photo insert. It’s a chronicle of the effect of African people on Guyana’s socio-economic history against the backdrop of the Caribbean world stage.

The interview took many years from 2004 to 2011, the UN International Year for People of African Descent.

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THE NEW YORK TUTORIAL SUPPORT GROUP

For Immediate Release
Contact: Keith Cadogan:
kcado71582@aol.com

PRESS RELEASE

13TH TRIENNIAL REUNION OF THE TUTORIAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JULY 30 - AUGUST 6, 2017

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK (February 2, 2017) The New York Tutorial Support Group (NYTSG), will host the 13th Triennial Reunion of the Tutorial High School Alumni Association from July 30, to August 6, 2017. A number of activities are planned for that week, with the signature event, the Grand Gala Ball at Terrace on the Park, Queens, NY.

Incorporated in the State of New York in 2004, NYTSG is one of the more active of the many Guyana and Caribbean High School Alumni Associations in the city of New York. It also supports two major Brooklyn community organizations.

Tutorial High School was founded in British Guiana in 1939 by Austin Castello with seven (7) students to provide secondary school education to a large underserved section of colonial Guiana, at a time when secondary education was the preserve of the privileged. In retrospect, that was a substantial achievement for a young 27 year old teacher with only a few years’ experience. Applying boundless energies and talents to his fledgling school, Austin Castello taught Mathematics, English language, French and Latin to students, often substituting for absent teachers. His efforts were the fulfillment of a dream to provide a high school education to the many black and brown (Indian) children of his native Guiana.

When he passed on August 23, 1991, Austin Castello left a significant and indelible mark on education in Guyana. Tutorial High School continues to be a beacon of light to many children in Guyana. And because of that, NYTSG anticipates in excess of 600 alumni may attend some or all of the activities planned for Reunion week. Mark these dates on your calendar and join us in New York for this triennial celebration honoring the founding father of Tutorial High School, Austin Castello.

NYTSG
January 31, 2017
The Resurrection is a work of fiction by renowned writer Peter Halder. Set in British Guiana, now Guyana, it is a supernatural thriller, woven in a tapestry of macabre and black magic episodes that startle the mind and chill the soul. The story opens a window on the supernatural folklore of the country such as obeah, moongazer, aspect of cumfa, raising the spirit of the dead. However, The Resurrection is also about love, betrayal, greed and murder.

Additional copies are available by mail:
Send $14.95 (plus tax and postage) to:
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Brooklyn, NY, 11226
Tel: 718-930-9526
E-mail: ehenry7255@aol.com
Beyond Bourda Green

The E-book of Beyond Bourda Green, a memoir by Percy Haynes interweaving his experiences as Journalist, Communications Consultant, University Lecturer and Diplomat with the changes in the transition of Guyana from a colony of the British Empire to an independent nation is now available at amazon.com. Since this memoir reflects the awakening of the people and their efforts to achieve a better life, it deserves a place on the book shelves of Guyanese at home and abroad. This E-book is particularly relevant at this time as Guyanese celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the achievement of independence.

This memoir records the turbulent journey of Guyana on the road to becoming an independent nation with its own flag - the Golden Arrowhead, its own national anthem and its own multicultural heritage. In his Guyana story, Haynes looks beyond the trials of the journey to the bright hopes for the future. Haynes concludes: “The children of Guyana will have the greatest of inspiration – nature’s bounty of still virtually untouched land, eternal rivers and mountains. The promise and the beauty of Guyana beckon to those children. It is my fervent hope that my own Guyana story showing triumph over trials, will play some part – however small – in the children’s building of the true nation of Guyana”.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in a tenement yard in the British colony of Guiana (now Guyana) on the shoulder of South America, Percy Haynes, in Beyond Bourda Green, writes about the changes in his homeland and people during the transition to an independent nation. His multi-faceted career as Journalist, Communications Expert, University Lecturer and Foreign Service Officer enables him to tell a fascinating story about his childhood memories, his experiences in finding his place in the world and the birth pangs of the new nation.

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine

DIS TIME NAH LANG TIME!

NEW VIDEOS BRING BACK VIVID MEMORIES OF “LANG TIME” IN GUYANA.

Toffie balls, neverdone sweetie, bruk mout, Chinee cake, fish an’ bread at Mahaicony station, M.V. Malali...Putagee Tunus, lass lick, Cutex, Dem boys fass bad!

These are some of the themes in the two culturally appealing videos focusing on parlance, people and places in Guyana released by Guyanese brothers T. Eric Matthews and Lear Matthews. The recordings bring back some vivid memories of the homeland. The videos entitled, Dis Time Nah Lang Time and Cavalcade of Sport – The Race, have received positive reviews and “likes” from a number of viewers in the Diaspora and at home.

The video Link is: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgZh64gLZi3glvwBzQz-Sg

Responses from cultural icons, Guyanese folklorists Francis Farrier, Marc Matthews and Ken Corsbie affirm the significant and timely contribution of the videos. Comments include: “A wonderful bundle of delight and insight, a delightful dis time... and an apt 440 yards relay... both right up my alley... Classic pieces...these are such wonderful material for me to use in my TV show in Guyana to enlighten the youngsters what life was like back in British Guiana and early Guyana.”

Political historian and culturalist, Eusi Kwayana writes: “The Matthews brothers breathed new life into the title Dis Time na lang time with inspired selection and popular nostalgia. Baad stuff!”

These videos are not only deeply rooted in Guyanese cultural tradition and lived experiences, but are presented with a sense of humor and diction with which readers could identify. They certainly complement the efforts of the Guyana Cultural Association to promote, preserve and propagate our cultural heritage.

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine