

GUYANA FOLK

And Culture



GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL 2016 SEASON

GUYANA PROUD!

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A month of transitions, both historical and perennial.

August 1 signals the historical transition from enslavement to freedom. Africans were enslaved for over 400 years beginning in 1441 when 10 Africans were captured and taken to Portugal. In Guyana, August 1, 1834 was the beginning of the process of freedom from physical bondage and on May 3, 1835, thirty-five Portuguese arrived from Madeira on the ship "Louisa Baillie" to work on the sugar plantation.

August is one of the most important months in Guyana as Emancipation on August 1 allowed Guyanese of Portuguese, Indian and Chinese descent to come to Guyana not as enslaved people but as free migrant workers through indentureship.

It is the month "nationhood" began. It is therefore a month of celebration, commemoration, reflection and preparation. Everywhere we use the month to transition. Nationally, schools open in September and the University of Guyana is in full flow. Many graduates begin their new jobs.

Many students transition from primary to secondary to tertiary education. August transitions to Amerindian Heritage Month in September, to Education month.

An important event was held this year on May 23 and May 24 at the Arthur Chung International Conference Center. This event was co-hosted by the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.. Through panel discussions, short performances, video documentaries, photographs and virtual presence, Guyanese of all walks of life, explored the four questions to remember, analyze, celebrate, observe and apply the lessons from our collective journey. These questions were (1) Who are we? (2) What has been our journey? (3) What can we become? (4) How can we get there?

Many facts, ideas and concepts came out of these deliberations at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre. Foremost was the realization that "Education" is the key to Guyana being able to achieve its motto of "One People, One Nation, One Destiny".

Our national development is underpinned by our education system. Our civility as a society is underpinned by our education system. Social cohesion is underpinned by education.

What is also very clear is that we are far from reaching our goal stated in Guyana's motto or mission statement of "One People, One Nation, One Destiny." It's a motto that speaks of Nationhood. It is a motto that speaks of Unity. It is a motto that speaks of Equality. It is a motto that speaks of Justice. In essence, our motto, "One People, One Nation, One destiny" speaks of a "just and caring" society.

At our 50th Anniversary of Independence, we are very far away from this reality.

All Guyanese need to strive for a Plural Democracy and a just multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-party society in which every citizen is equal before the Law and in which every citizen enjoys freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of religion and the right to life, freedom, privacy and safety.

To do this we need many more "servant leaders" among us. Servant leadership is about courage. The type of courage that promotes selflessness and moral integrity.

As Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King Jr. demonstrated with their lives "one man or one woman with courage is a majority".

The month of August is the correct month for us to commit to the spirit and goals of "servant leadership"

The results are many. Healing, love, cultural respect, shared values, shared hopes, shared responsibilities and shared benefits of our national patrimony.

August is for transitions. For hope. For a commitment to unity.

August is for us to start becoming the Nation we can be.

Eric Phillips



MY NAME IS AVA

**I am proud
of my
Guyanese
heritage**

*I am a Guyanese
I am 216, 000 square
kilometers
Of forest
Water
And land*

*I am six peoples
with a history
Who in unity
Command
The forest
The water
And the land*

*I am a Guyanese
I am a total expression of
strength
I am all the trees in one
Planted
In the middle of
Kurupukari*

From the Poem "I am a Guyanese"
by Kwesi Oginga



GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.
15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



THE REPORT CARD

Dr. Vibert Cambridge, President, Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.



THE ANNUAL FOLK FESTIVAL SEASONS HAVE PROVIDED THE PLATFORMS TO SHOWCASE, TO CELEBRATE, AND TO DOCUMENT THIS HERITAGE

The past 15 years have been a marvelous experiment in cooperation. Inspired by the spirit of Wordsworth McAndrew, A.A., our mission has been: “to document, showcase and celebrate the multiple roots of Guyana’s cultural heritage.” The annual Folk Festival seasons have provided the platforms to showcase, to celebrate, and to document this heritage.

As the late Godfrey Chin said more than a decade ago, our mission is to “Preserve, Promote and Propagate.”

Our work has constantly reaffirmed McAndrew’s conclusion that within our folk heritage—that rich depository of lived experience and contemporary creativity-- lie the resources and experiences needed to build interethnic trust and authentic identity

in Guyana.

Our work has been guided by the belief that the sustained, systematic, and innovative exploration of Guyana’s multi-ethnic folk heritage will reveal the common threads that connect us. Our experience suggests that the processes of collaborative exploration of our multi-ethnic heritage can establish and deepen interethnic trust. Without interethnic trust, there can be no sustainable development in Guyana.

Permit me to add some detail to our work over the past 15 years.

Our work at preservation is best seen in our efforts to encourage and to support original research on Guyanese cultural heritage:

- GCA encouraged and supported Rohan Sagar's exploration of Guyana's musicscape. His 2012 M.A. thesis, 'Ethnic Conversations in Sonic Spaces' is anchored on a needed musicological survey of Guyana's musical landscape. His work provides a valuable snapshot of the presence and current state of the musical traditions associated with our Indigenous, European, African, Asian, and Caribbean musical heritages. Sagar's work is of value to the current conversation on music education in Guyana.

- GCA's "Kweh Kweh Nights" provided an opportunity for Gillian Richards Greaves, then a doctoral student in anthropology and ethnomusicology at Indiana University, to study Kweh Kweh in the diaspora. Dr. Greave's pioneering dissertation was titled: **AFRICAN GUYANESE KWEH-KWEH RITUAL PERFORMANCE: TRICULTURALISM, REDIASPORIZATION, AND THE NEGOTIATION OF IDENTITIES IN GUYANA AND NEW YORK.** Dr. Gillian Richards-Greeves is currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Archeology and Anthropology at Coastal Carolina University, South Carolina.

- In December 2012, based on the recommendations of Dr. Juliet Emanuel, GCA in partnership with Guyana's Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sport organized the Masquerade Lives symposium in Georgetown, Guyana. The goal was to increase awareness and appreciation of the art form and to launch

efforts to revitalize. This ongoing effort has resulted in

- o The Masquerade mural in Georgetown. This mural was initiated by Errol Doris and executed by students at the E.R. Burrowes School of Art.

- o The annual Masquerade Flounce Off event. These events have provided opportunities for Linda Griffith and Andrea Mentore to "map" the state of masquerade in Guyana. Currently, Essequibo is said to have the most active bands in Guyana. Demerara's bands are concentrated on the East Coast, West Demerara, and Linden. The team had not encountered any masquerade bands in Berbice.

- o Since the premiering of Derry Etkins' Masquerade Sweet Suite at the 2012 Masquerade Lives symposium, a community of Guyanese musicians have been incorporating masquerade aesthetics in their new compositions. Among the composers, arrangers, and ensembles experimenting are Derry Etkins, Andrea Mentore, Teacher Raghu, and the Georgetown Jazz Ensemble.

- o The 2012 symposium revealed that there was widespread concern about the state of Guyanese masquerade costumes and the impending loss of the masquerade flute as an instrument in bands. In December of 2014, as a result, GCA in partnership in MCYS, organized costume and music workshops in Georgetown.

GCA "Because of You" Honorees



Photo Credits: Michael Hadaway



HONORING PAST & PRESENT PRESIDENTS OF GCA

o Since 2012, Dr. Paloma Mohamed has been conducting research of masquerade “toasts.”

o The Masquerade Lives project has striven to ensure that events presented in Guyana are recorded. The video records of the 2012 Masquerade Lives symposium and the 2014 workshops have been deposited at the National Archives and the Learning Channel

o In December 2016, the Masquerade Lives project expects to organize a Masquerade Jamboree in Georgetown. It is anticipated that the Dr. Juliet Emanuel’s children’s book on masquerade will be launched.

Promotion

The annual symposia have been a key vehicle for sharing new knowledge about Guyana’s heritage. The first symposium was held in 2002 at Union United Methodist Church in Brooklyn. Since then, GCA has held an annual symposium in Brooklyn or Georgetown, Guyana. Each symposium is typically a day-long event that focuses on some aspect of Guyanese heritage and creativity through research reports, creative works, performances, and dialogue. We have looked at music, Identity, language, literature, dance, Mittelholzer, and village life.

The theme for our 2013 symposium was “Who are We? Imagining Guyana Beyond Indian and African Politics of Race.” Participants agreed there was a general lack of knowledge of: (a) Guyana’s common, collective multi-ethnic history and (b) the communally owned reservoir of knowledge and wisdom generated from the many human encounters, interactions, and exchanges that have taken place in the Guyana space over more

than 7,000 years.

This cultural deficit contributes to:

- The perpetuation of racist myths and stereotypes that nourish and reinforce ethnic mistrust;
- A lack of appreciation of Guyana’s geographic scope and the diversity of its natural resources;
- The inability to distill and to apply the spiritual and philosophical wisdom born of our common heritage;
- Maladaptive behaviors, especially the practices of physical, psychological, and legal domination in governance and inter-personal relationships;
- This undermines our ability to develop and to implement an equitable and sustainable national development strategy.

These conclusions have led to our current work—the “We Bridgin ...” initiative. “We Bridgin” is a collaborative trust-building approach involving multiple partners in Guyana, New York, and the wider Guyanese diaspora.

Propagation

For this task, our emphasis has been on the promotion of contemporary creativity. We do this in several ways. One is the annual Folk Festival season—the Awards Ceremony, Symposia, Kwe Kwe Night, the MoBraff Performing Arts Season, the Visual Arts exhibitions, the film and video festival, the Literary Hang, and Family Fun Day. Our newly launched Guyana Arts and Cultural Center, along with the annual Guyana Folk Magazine, the monthly online magazine, and our website have been other channels for encouraging and promoting Guyana creativity.

Over the past 15 years we have

- supported the publication of [many] books by Guyanese. Today, without much fanfare, GCA has quietly taken leadership in the multi-dimensional world of book publishing.
- Through exhibitions, performances, and other events we have created space for showcasing Guyanese creativity in art, literature, music, fashion, film, video, and the culinary arts. The recently launched Guyana Arts and Cultural Center will allow for year-round programming our community—the seniors, parents, young adults, and youth.
- We have sought and built partnerships. In 2005, we collaborated with the Rajkumari Center to



Photo Credits: Michael Hadaway

organize a Festival of Guyana's Drums in Queens. Since 2008, we have partnered with MCYS in Guyana on heritage and arts education projects. In recent years we have been growing our relationships with the Brooklyn Arts Council. This partnership gave us 2015's Folk Feet in the Street and high resulted in the "Second Stage" at Family Fun Day 2016.

Clearly, we have done much over the past 15 years. We are proud of our achievements and conscious of our responsibilities.

All of this has happened on Claire Goring's watch.



What do we do next?

There is sometimes a natural impatience within our community about our pace and the methods to achieve our goals. But as Henry Muttoo reminded us recently, "Impatience asks for the impossible, wants to reach the goal without the means of getting there." (Hegel via Henry Muttoo). Our way forward is going to be determined by the means at our disposal. As an organization we have experienced the benefit of collaboration and partnerships. Moving forward we will give priority to:

- Strengthening and encouraging the processes of collaborative exploration through the We Bridging effort. We look forward to consolidating our work with partners in New York and Guyana, especially BAC, MYCS, and the University of Guyana.
- Generating content for use in a Guyanese Life Long Learning environment.
- Encouraging research and documentation on the Guyanese presence in New York during the 20th century.
- We will continue to advocate for creative arts education in Guyana.

As we move forward conscious of our responsibilities, we in turn ask you for your continued support especially our upcoming fund-raising initiatives. Again, thank you for being with us here tonight, we look forward to your ongoing support.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT OVER THE PAST
FIFTEEN YEARS

Photo Credits: Michael Hadaway



The Literary Hang, one of the signature events in the GCA seasonal lineup, made its first unique appearance at Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 4. Billed as The Literary Hang under the Tent, The Literary Hang Mart was a huge success. This introduction to the enormous crowd on Family Fun Day was vibrant, neighborly and all out happy. The greater community got to meet and interact with the writers and composers of other works, beyond prose, poetry and drama. Sales were vigorous and several sets of offerings were sold out. As a result of this initiative, instead of its now one time conventional program of readings and discussions of and by wordsmiths, primarily Guyanese of all ages, in a more intimate theater setting, there will be a two pronged event consisting of the established program and a Literary Hang Mart dedicated mainly to the Guyanese Word. This fifteenth year, then, marks a development in the Literary Hang. Since tables were sold out this year we recommend that anyone who wants to participate in the Mart, reserves a space as soon as the event is announced in February 2017. The announcement will be sent via the GCA website, email blasts and social media. The same advice applies to the gathering of writers, of all genres, that occurs during the week previous to Family Fun Day. This event is always sold out also. Anyone may take part in both events. Onward, upward.

THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

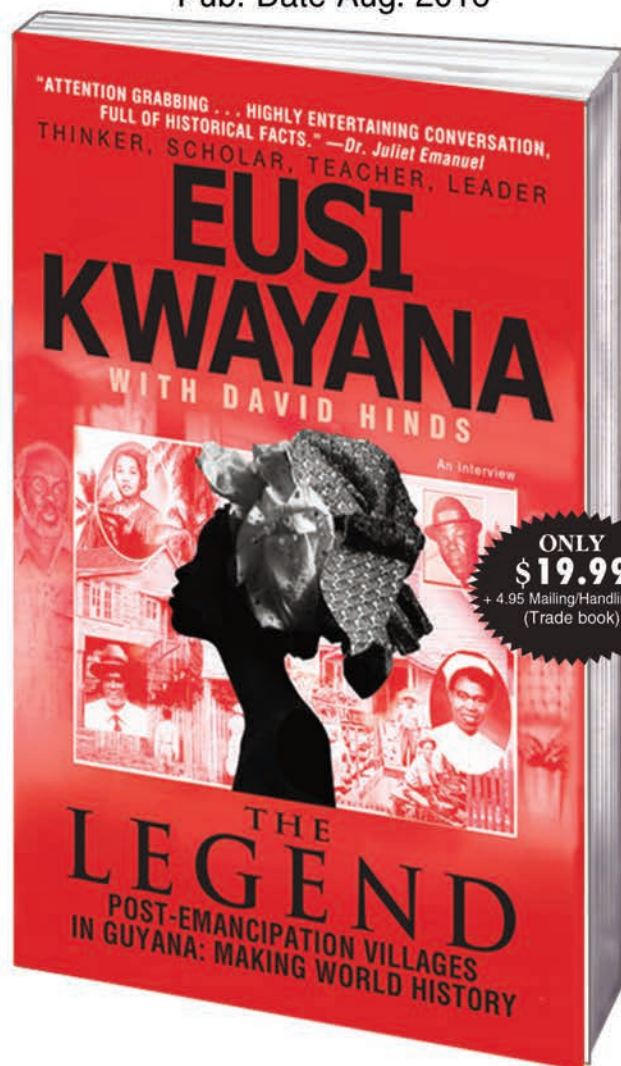


Photo Credits: Michael Hadaway

FUN TIME WITH CRAYOLA

THE LEGEND IS HERE IN TIME FOR YOU

Pub. Date Aug. 2016



This book was spun like a silk thread into existence, linking 'our then' with 'our now', linking our dawn with our dusk. This book was spoken, a real audio book, by Eusi Kwayana interviewed by David Hinds. Eusi is a legend in his own time. He is a consummate educator, a thinker, a teacher, a leader, a giant of a man!, a "village man," an elder at ninety-one . . . a griot at best.

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. The conversation outlines the general course of change going forward, winning and losing, but enduring. 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, 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 back-drop of the Caribbean world stage.

The interview took many years from 2004 to 2011, the UN International Year for People of African Descent. The conversation starts from the year 1839. "We give thanks for the ancestors who sent forth 'Dada' Eusi to teach us."

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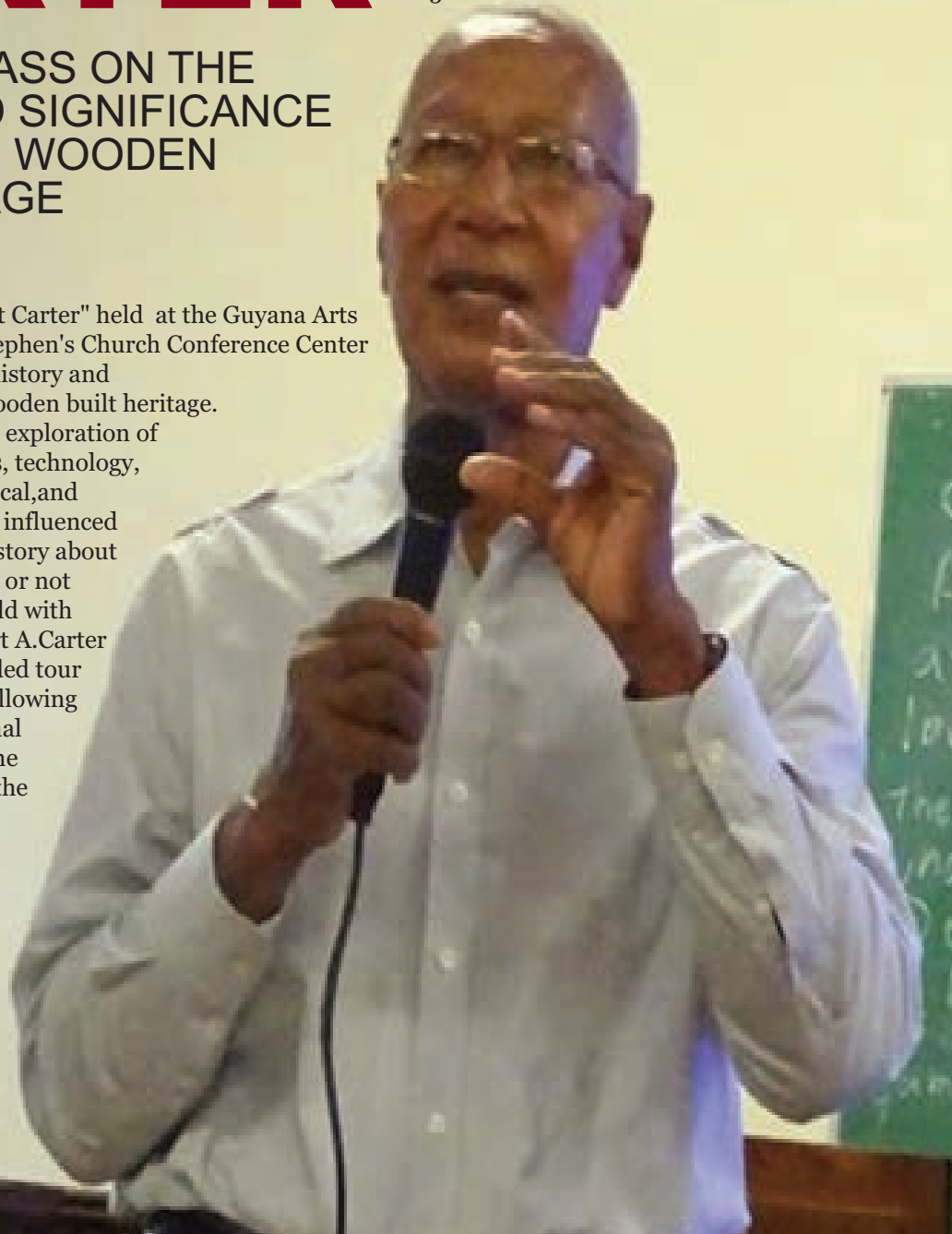
GYAFF WITH BERT CARTER

A MASTERCLASS ON THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF GUYANA'S WOODEN BUILT HERITAGE

Vibert Cambridge

Gyaff & Breakfast with Bert Carter" held at the Guyana Arts and Cultural Center, St. Stephen's Church Conference Center was a master class on the history and significance of Guyana's wooden built heritage. It was a multi-dimensional exploration of the personalities, materials, technology, along with the social, political, and environmental factors that influenced this heritage. It was also a story about how Guyana has preserved or not preserved this heritage. Told with wit and compassion, Egbert A. Carter took us on a delightful guided tour of "greater" Georgetown following the tram routes (both animal drawn and electric) from the East Bank of Demerara to the Seawall terminus.

Along the way, we visited existing iconic buildings and some of those that were lost to the great fires. Bert's presentation was well received. Members of the appreciative audience were left in a better position to reflect on the questions: "Have we progressed or retrogressed architecturally?" "Should we not strive to retain our wooded build heritage?" "Gyaff and Breakfast with Bert Carter" featured a breakfast of bakes and salt fish, scrambled eggs, butter flaps, tennis rolls, sorrel, mauby, and a wonderful bush tea brew. The event was a presentation of the Guyana Arts & Cultural Center for GCA's 15th Folk Festival Season.





Rose October-Edun

Kwe Kwe



Nite

This year's Folk Festival season, Kwe Kwe celebrated its 12th anniversary as Guyana Cultural Association (GCA) celebrates its fifteenth, along with Guyana that is celebrating its Jubilee Anniversary as an independent nation. The Kwe Kwe Ensemble spearheaded by Verna Walcott-White and Rose October-Edun was the usual treat. The core musicians comprised drummers, Winston "Jeggae" Hoppie and Akoyaw Rudder, were joined by Kadeem Johnson, a youth drummer, Jasper Adams (a visitor from Maryland), Gavin Lynch (a former musician of the National Dance Company of Guyana and National School of Dance); along with Hilton Hemerding on keyboard, and Wilbert "Saxie" James on saxophone. Added to the excitement was Horace Carter, fondly known as "Gold Teeth Lance" on his bass drum.

To date, this year's Kwe Kwe stands as a unique experience for the attendees, as there were a few highlights. One such was this year saw the largest number of attendees. Also, setting the tone for the evening was the invitation accepted by an Indian performance group, The Mistry Gaarba Group. This Indian group took the attendees through some pre-wedding rituals done in India. These were similar to Kwe Kwe, and those done in African cultures. The collaboration between The Mistry Gaarba Group and GCA was fostered by the relationship GCA has with Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), a co-sponsor of this year's festival.

Like the other events of the season that preceded Kwe Kwe, 15 individuals who have contributed to the growth of GCA's events over the years were recognized. Those individuals recognized for their contribution to Kwe Kwe included Mike Yansen, a well known Guyanese businessman, Kay Turner, former Director of Folk Arts at BAC, and E. Wayne McDonald of Caribbean Cultural Theatre, to list a few.

An addition to this year's program was the presence of Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana (UG) and team. They were given the opportunity to speak about the changes at and growth of UG. Education Resource Ambassadors, Dr. Terrance Blackman and Allison Skeete-Hadaway shared a treat with attendees by giving information about the plans for UG and how concerned individuals can contribute to its growth.

A highlight of the evening occurred when the attendees were graced by the presence of the charming and talented Nuriyyih Gerald, Miss World Guyana. Accompanied by her beautiful cohort, she spoke eloquently about her platform and timely subject of mental health. The princess was passionate in sharing about her platform. They both were congratulated by well wishers.

The event ended with revelers gyrating to the pulse of live drums and singing along to folk songs lead by the Kwe Kwe Ensemble. Of course, the year's Kwe Kwe makes it difficult for next year because expectations are high. Oh what a night it was!





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St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church

The Very Reverend Eddie Alleyne & Kay Alleyne
cordially invite you to the



25th Anniversary Gala

Friday, October 28, 2016

St. Gabriel's Golden Hall

331 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Cocktails

8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Dinner/Dance

10:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.

Donation

\$100.00

Music by

DJ Flexx

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MOTHER LAKSHMI DIWALI CELEBRATION



Gangadai Kirtan presents Raags To Rock
Sunday, October 23, 2016 . 5:00~9:00 PM

PROGRAM

- 5:00-6:30 Mandala Making, Sari Tying Galore
- 6:30-7:00 Diya Lighting Ceremony
- 7:00-7:30 Lakshmi Devi Invocation
- 7:30-9:00 Gangadai Kirtan Performance Live Music, Singing, Dancing, Indian Food & Feasting

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Denyse Baboolall

Yadaris Otero

Let's Give A Grand Welcome To Mother Lakshmi, Devi Shakti of Light, Wellness & Wealth!

Subha Diwali ~ After harvest and as we move towards the dark season, over 1.3 billion people will begin to celebrate by shooting off firecrackers, illuminating cities, villages, homes and water-ways with millions of diyas (lights in earthen bowls) with ritual and healing ceremony giving thanks to this Mother for her bounty.

Diwali or Deepavali is by far the most glamorous and engaging celebration of the Indian sub-continent and worldwide; enthusiastically enjoyed by people of every religion for its magical radiance. The people exchange gifts of gold, cloth and delicacies to sweeten and welcome the New Year with love and gratitude.

Diwali marks different historical events as, Rama and Sita's return to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil and hope over despair. This Diya is for You. Let's Make It Strong!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT --- CHITRA SINGH
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The Rajkumar Cultural Center is a leading multi-arts organization revitalizing the cultural and artistic life of Caribbean and South Asian immigrant communities thru grassroots, research-based arts and education programs, presentations and festivals.
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AN EVENING OF
PIANO IMPROVISATIONS
**DR. PATRICIA
CAMBRIDGE
IN RECITAL**





Romanee Kalicharran in performance
**BROOKLYN ARTS
COUNCIL AT
FOLK
FESTIVAL
FAMILY FUN DAY**

Historical timelines will present much information. The lens which one wears to read it can show similarities and differences that are revelatory when given some thought. In the year of the GCA 15th Anniversary and Guyana's Independence Jubilee celebration, several characteristics of our heritage are observed and evaluated. Serving as a members of the GCA Awards Committee afforded me the privilege of assessing the descriptions and contributions of nominees for twelve years.

Starting from the founding of the organization, the Awards were presented to individuals whose impact related to the many years of Independence aspirations, Post-Independence attainment and achievements. The honorees made contributions predominantly in the Arts and other spheres of culture.

Today, many are seen as pioneers and icons. The Awardee designations followed the traditional path: for example, performing and visual artists, and writers. Individual creationists have been duly acknowledged for their noble actions in improving cultural conditions in the homeland and the Diaspora.

In 2006, a notable level of accreditation was defined and added: Cultural Enabler. It began a formal recognition of the role of arts presenters and social entrepreneurs of various types. Their work would be acknowledged for its support to creativity and the improvement and sustainability of higher standards of social life.

The roster of 2016 Awardees includes highly accomplished individuals and entities who were acclaimed with the GCA Award and in three other categories: Youth; Lifetime Achievement Award; and Exemplary.



AWARDS 2016

Contributors of distinction to the vibrancy of their spaces in the native land and the Diaspora through community service; literary, performing and visual arts; information technology education and social media.

Their paths to success are varied and outstanding as are the characteristics of achievement. Both traditional and contemporary modes of expression are displayed. The passageways from poverty and modest family circumstances to sterling professional achievement illustrate the profound effect of high-quality education. It is evident as a formidable foundation and asset for ambitious persons. A remarkable element is that social and geographic boundaries were no deterrents to noble aspirations and their substantive attainment.



FAMILY FUN DAY
“Beautiful Guyana”
by RKHTY





GUYANA NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

APPEARANCE AT FOLK FESTIVAL DURING VISIT TO NEW YORK

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

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The National Dance Company of Guyana was officially instituted as a professional body of dancers on October 1, 1979. It is a unit in the Department of Culture, Youth and Sport within the Ministry of Education.

Although modern -based their area of 'study' includes Guyanese and Caribbean cultural forms and traditions, the focus being on promoting multiculturalism aimed at fostering appreciation and a more indepth knowledge of and pride in nationalism.

Over the years the 'company' has performed and

conducted workshops nationally- in various regions in Guyana as well as individually/ collectively on the international scene in Surinam, Trinidad, Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Cuba, U.S.A. and Canada.

The 'company', under the Directorship of Vivienne Daniel, plans and stages six productions annually; each with a different 'focus' – for Valentine, at Easter, for Caricom anniversary, for Emancipation, for Dance Season and for Christmas.



Under the 'watchful eye' of our stage manager this team – fourteen senior and six junior members supported by five apprentices – continue to deliver productions of a high level of discipline which complements their artistic excellence.

They are the recipients of several awards, inclusive of the New York Guyana Folk Festival Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to Guyana's Cultural Heritage in the field of dance and more recently the Guyana Medal of Service.

In this, their 37th year, the 'company' as members of the artistic community remains dedicated to cultural education, experimentation and excellence in the arts as they continuously strive as ambassadors for the maintenance of dancers with 'dual training' -encouraging the acquisition and growth of dance related careers among dancers- thus building the foundation for continuity in the discipline that is 'dance'

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THE NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY LEADS THE PARADE AT THE WEST INDIAN DAY PARADE, LABOR DAY IN BROOKLYN



Photo Credits: Rose October-Edun

DALGETTY TEAS

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Benefits & Possibilities
does your other tea do that???



*I am a Guyanese
 I am 215, 000 square kilometers
 Of forest Water
 And land I am six peoples
 with a history
 Who in unity Command
 The forest The water
 And the land
 I am a total expression of strength
 I am all the trees in one
 Planted In the middle of
 Kurupukari
 My roots spread
 From the Corentyne River east
 To the Ireng River west
 From the Akari Mountains south
 To the Atlantic north*

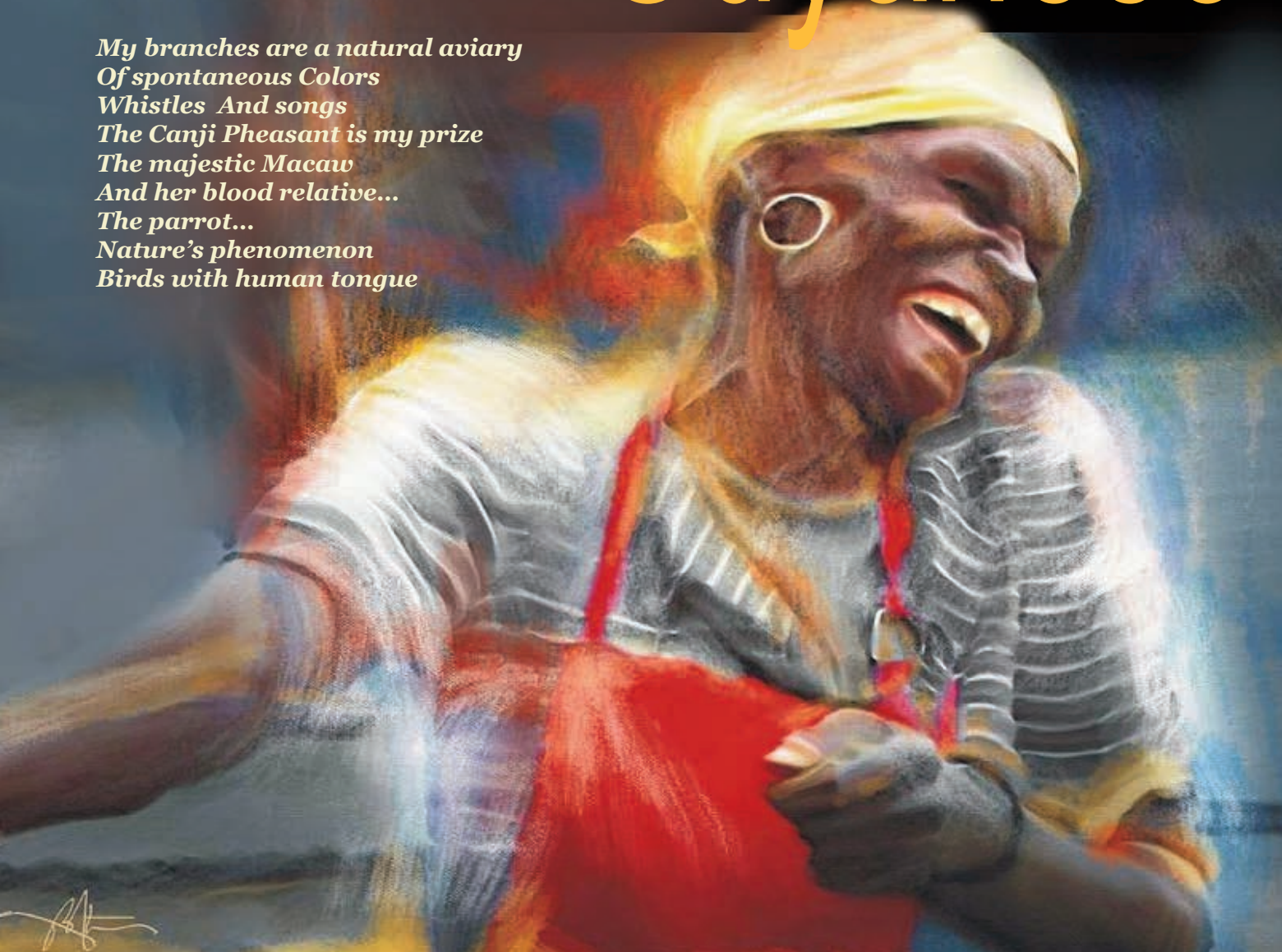
*My branches are a natural aviary
 Of spontaneous Colors
 Whistles And songs
 The Canji Pheasant is my prize
 The majestic Macaw
 And her blood relative...
 The parrot...
 Nature's phenomenon
 Birds with human tongue*

POEM

Kwesi Oginga 1984

Photo Credit: Dmitri Allicock

I am a Guyanese



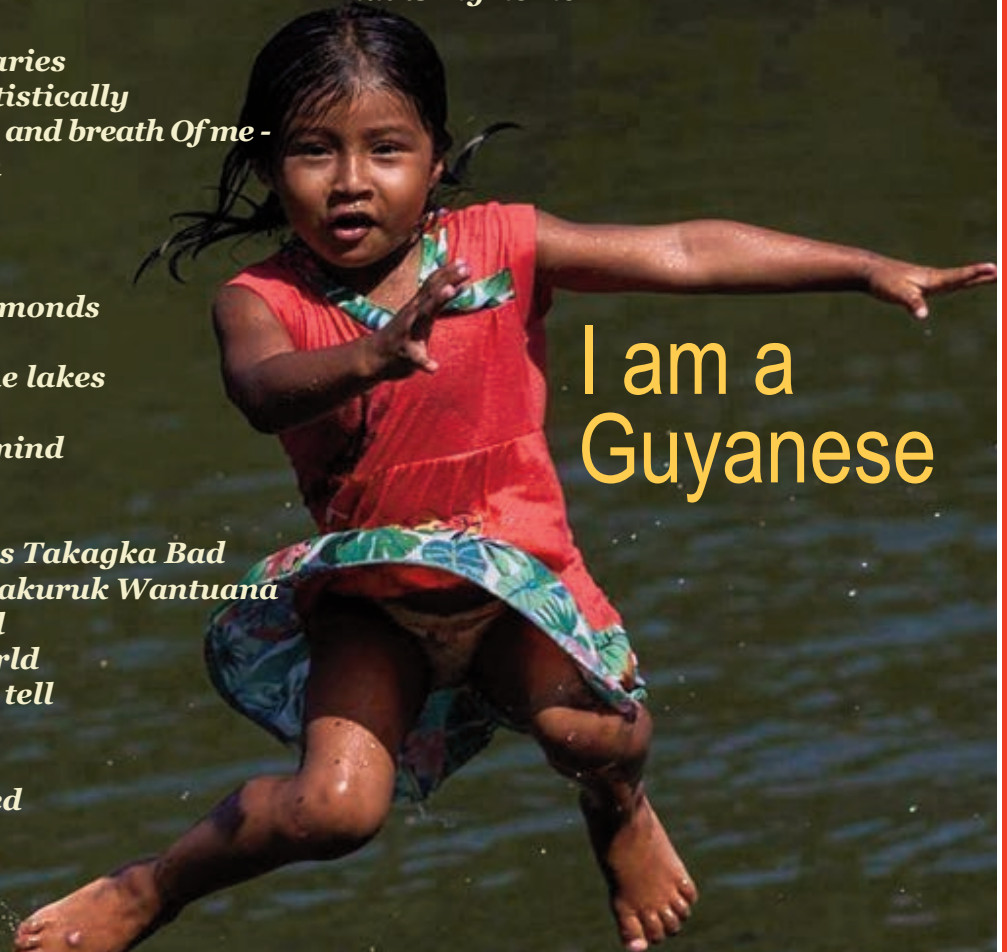
*Between my roots and my crown I am
robed in a collage of colors Grains
And many wood designs
I am Kabakali
I am Hubabali I am Silverbali I am
Greenheart Mora Crabwood Wallaba
And many more
Than you will find in just one tree
Yet a whole world sleeps
Within the heart of me
I am a Guyanese
I am a proud expression Of the land
That is my home*

*I am a Guyanese
My arms are long broad rivers
That wash the face of the Caribbean sea
Berbice Abary Mahaica Mahaicony
Essequibo Demerara Boerasirie
Pomeroon Moruka Waini Barima
Takutu Amakura*

*Their scores of tributaries
My veins Sketched artistically
Throughout The length and breath Of me -
My history Is written
on each river's floor
A history - rich-
That's left to store
With the gold and diamonds
My children find
My history Deep as the lakes
That house
My memory and my mind
The mighty Kaieteur
And her sister falls
Orinduik John Daniels Takagka Bad
Woman Maipuri Chinakuruk Wantuana
Know my history well
They sing it to the world
Each and everyone to tell
Land of many waters*

*That's what I am called
Waters bursting
with potentials
Riches and all
I am a Guyanese
I am a proud expression
Of the land That is my home*

*I am a Guyanese
I am made of the mud of ten regions
My muscles are mountains
Bursting from beneath the earth
Imataka Kanuku Sierra Akari
Pakaraima Roraima I am made of the
Jaspers Agates Quartz Amethysts
Pearls Ruby Gold Diamonds
Tons of precious
And semi - precious stones ...
I am rice Sugar Vegetables and
citrus Cattle Oil Bauxite Guyanese
A human industry
A man, a woman, a child dedicated
Each river to swim Each mountain to climb
Each resource to promote
A country to convert to El' Dorado
A great dream
I am a Guyanese I am a Guyanese
A proud expression of the land
That is my home*



**I am a
Guyanese**

Kwesi Oginga 1984

Photo Credit: Dmitri Allicock



EMANCIPATION 2016

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The African Cultural & Development Association (ACDA) is celebrating its 23rd anniversary this year in 2016.

This is ACDA's 2nd Emancipation during the International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) which began January 2015 and will end 31st December 2024. This is also a special year as Guyana celebrates its 50th year of Independence its Jubilee. It's Independence which was fought for by Afro-Guyanese.

EMANCIPATION 2016 THEME

ACDA's theme for Emancipation 2016 is

"CELEBRATING AFRICAN GUYANESE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR OF OUR JUBILEE".

Our sub theme is: "Building Strong Families through Entrepreneurship."

These themes are chosen in recognition of the importance of our youth knowing their history and the legacy of their ancestors whom have been on this Earth for 3 million years as manifested by the skeleton of Lucy (Dinkenesh) and the need to build Guyanese families through economic strength via Entrepreneurship.

HONOURING THE AFRICAN PRESENCE IN GUYANA

ACDA celebrates an African country annually because most Guyanese of African descent cannot trace their ancestral roots to a particular African Nation. In choosing a particular African country to highlight every year, ACDA seeks to educate young and old about African countries and to remind them that Africa has 54 countries and is not a single country like China or India or the United States.

Traditionally, ACDA honours an African country every Emancipation Festival by building an educational booth for that country. However this year 2016, the focus will be put squarely on our very own GUYANA, in keeping with the Jubilee celebrations A country with a very rich African influence, history and culture, GUYANA will be the centerpiece that ACDA will proudly showcase during the observance of this Emancipation, as we explore our glorious past.

HONOURING AN AFRICAN GUYANESE VILLAGE – Baracara (Canje River, Berbice)

While many of the villages honoured by ACDA with the spotlight of the Emancipation celebrations have a

common history of purchase by freed slaves, the community being focused on in 2016 has a deeper, more mysterious origin passed down in oral history. For Emancipation 2016, ACDA honours Baracara on the Canje River, Berbice.

HISTORY:

Baracara, a small village along the banks of the Canje River in Berbice, has at its roots a history passed down in the folklore of its residents over the years that points to it being a community that originated as a refuge for Guyanese Maroons or runaway slaves. The stories roll off of the lips of the village elders, of findings of lead shot for muskets at the waterfront immediately in front of the school to the passage of knowledge of folk healing methodologies and folk medicine that over time have proven to be very effective. This community is now poised to transition into a local government area administrated by a Neighbourhood Democratic Council, a project that is currently being undertaken by the Ministry of Communities.

The African Cultural and Development Association-Emancipation Festival Acts 2016

International Acts- Every year ACDA aspires to raise the bar on our performances in the National Park, by providing some of the best local, regional and International performing groups. This year is no different, we vow to make 2016 one of the biggest festivals in honour of Celebrating the Future of Guyana.

For the first time ever in 2013 ACDA was able to bring performers from Africa via the USA and we have managed to continue to expand our international acts since then in our hope to foster the growth of professionalism and diversity within the Guyana Performing Arts field especially amongst our local groups. The aim is to bring something different every year to the festival which does not already exist in Guyana... The past 3 years we have brought; a Nigerian Mime, Acrobats from Kenya, a Juggler from Ethiopia and a Ventriloquist amongst others, all talents that were fairly new to the Guyanese people. This year we want expand on this and make this a tradition for ACDA's emancipation coming to experience African Culture in fun and different forms of expression.



FEATURE:

NATURAL BLACK

SINGER, SONG-
WRITER, IN THE
FOREFRONT OF
THE ROOTS &
CULTURE
MOVEMENT

Mortimer Softley was born in Georgetown, Guyana. He moved to Jamaica in 1995 to pursue his dream of being a reggae singer. In Guyana he was nicknamed Black and White because of his love for dressing in that colour code. In Jamaica the musicians he hung around would rename him Natural Black.

On his arrival on the island he worked as a welder and coffee picker while recording in his spare time for various producers. He made the rounds voicing for the likes of Anthony Red Rose, Gordon Lee, Jack Scorpio, Freddie McGregor and Beres Hammond. Some producers released material and others didn't but of the singles that came out all suffered for lack of promotion. His fortunes however began to change when in 2000 he met Roger Grant, a young producer just starting his label Organic Records. This association resulted in two singles, "With Feeling" and "Bad Mind" which captured the audience's attention and brought him his first taste of success. Both songs charted, followed by "In The Streetz" and "Never Leave You Lonely" which peaked at number three on the Star charts. Grant became his manager and capitalized on the popularity of the singles by booking him on major shows like Sting, Reggae Sunfest and Rebel Salute. His promising career was further bolstered with frequent touring in France, Switzerland, and Sweden among other territories.

Natural Black has fans in the Caribbean, Europe, the United States and Latin America and is currently signed to Vision Sound Studios of Guyana. He possesses a distinctively smooth and mellow voice, and parlays a style of his own. He is solidly in the forefront of the new roots and culture movement. He is a regular among the top record producers and show promoters. Over the years he has recorded with Organic, King Jammys, 5th Element, Rootsdown, In The Streetz, Lustre Kings, Addis, 321 Strong, Firehouse, Harmony House, Digital B, Lion Paw, Big Yard, Kickin', Young Blood, No Doubt and Maximum Sound, amongst others. He is closely associated with fellow deejays Norris Man and Perfect and often voice tunes in joint sessions over the same riddims with them.



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**A 50th Independence Anniversary
Masterpiece from the mind of
an accomplished Guyanese author
PETER HALDER**



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 super-natural 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.

On Wednesday, August 17th, 2016, the 129th Birthday of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Guyana-born actor, director and broadcaster, Ron Bobb-Semple was presented with the Marcus Garvey Award for the Arts in Jamaica, West Indies. This honour was bestowed upon him at the 7th Annual Garvey Awards by the President and members of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) Chapter of Jamaica. The UNIA was founded by Marcus Garvey in Jamaica in 1914. President Steven Golding chose the venue of the Somali Court in Kingston, the premises on which Marcus Garvey lived from 1929–1935. The packed audience was moved by Bobb-Semple's rendition of Marcus Garvey's 'African Fundamentalism.' Among the Awardees was former member of the Reggae Band, Third World, Ibo Cooper who received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Garvey Celebration continued on Sunday, August 21st when top rated radio station Irie FM paid its Annual Tribute to Garvey at the Coconut Grove Great House Courtyard in Ocho Rios. Thousands of Jamaican nationals and friends of Jamaica filled the venue and had the opportunity to witness Ron mesmerize them with his "The Spirit of Marcus Garvey," a one-man cultural and educational presentation which he has taken to Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and throughout the United States.

RON BOBB-SEMPL

**HONORED WITH
MARCUS
GARVEY
AWARD**



NEW YORK BOOK LAUNCH

From Seedtime to Harvest

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 9, 2016**

3.00 P.M. - 6.00 P.M.

GUYANA ARTS &
CULTURAL CENTER

(St. Stephen's Conference Hall - 2nd. Fl.)

2806 Newkirk Avenue

Between E.28 & E.29 Streets)

Brooklyn, NY 11226

Entrance: \$25.00

Each member of the audience
will receive a copy of the book.

Reception to follow



Sunday Afternoon with

*Carmen
Farwis*



**GCA
FAMILY DAY**

FLY JAMAICA STAFF,
MICHELLE KHAN
CAMPBELL MAKES
PRESENTATION TO
MILTON DENNY, WINNER
OF RETURN AIRFARE,
ON FLY JAMAICA



The longest running Radio Serial Drama in Guyana and the Caribbean



10TH Anniversary

2006

2016