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Please join our Facebook group, Website: www.guyfolkfest.org

GCA Secretariat -1368 E.89 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236 **Tel: 800-774-5762** 

#### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Here on the pulse of this new day You may have the grace to look up and out And into your sister's eyes, into Your brother's face, your country And say simply Very simply With hope Good morning.

On The Pulse of The Morning: Maya Angelou

And a "good morning" it is indeed! It's the month of April, and a change of season is evident all around us. In compliance, friends, we are at the cusp of an historic moment in our lives, one so immense it will remain etched in our memories and in the annals of our country's history. We are poised and ready to celebrate fifty years, with eyes looking "up and out" towards a future filled with promise for our beautiful country.

Where one year ago, Guyanese spent nail-biting moments as we awaited the outcome of an election decision that we prayed would reignite the fires of national pride, here one year later, many who left our shores and did not look back are turning around with compasses pointed homeward.

Social media has flooded every space it seems with event after event, for Guyana's Golden Jubilee. Invitations swirl from each homeland Region for celebrations in that area and we are provided with agendas for time and place. Elsewhere and within the diaspora are Jubilee engagements within North America and the United Kingdom. This month's magazine provides the schedule of some of these events..

It seems the floodgates have burst open with the artistry of young and old, known and unknown, all eager to serve up their patriotic offerings. The abundance of new product hitting the media is near-dizzying and we are taking it all in with so much pleasure. For those of you who will not make the physical journey home, the energy is as potent. Your involvement in the celebrations worldwide guarantees a "holistic" connection for you with home. Yes folks, "we reach home" in the true sense.

For the Guyana Cultural Association, the achievement of fifteen years as an Organization is our stamp of unwavering national commitment to you. Undiminished by the excitement of these times, our plans for this year's Awards, our season of Queh-Queh, Folk Festival, and Symposium are as vigorous, "pumped up" by the success of past accomplishments. The call for Awards nominations is at our doorstep and we have begun to roll our sleeves up, to make this year as remarkable as the others – and better! We encourage and appreciate the submission of nominees who have shown true mettle and who are deserving of national recognition.

Have you visited our Cultural Arts Center. Why not plan on a visit, and get involved. Age is no stumbling block. Be a part of our newest project or help it to grow with your contributions.

Read on and enjoy. *Gail A. Nunes,* April Editor

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



STATUTE DE LA COMPANY

O beautiful Guyana O my lovely native land More dear to me than all the world Thy sea-washed, sun-kissed strand Or down upon the borders Looking out upon the deep The great Atlantic Blown into a fury, or asleep. At morn, at noon - or better In the crimson sunset's glow I love thee, Oh I love thee. Valerie Rodway



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### GUYANESE AROUND THE WORLD WILL CELEBRATE GUYANA'S



#### ONE PEOPLE ONE NATION ONE DESTINY

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL May 2 - 31, 2016 National Collection (Region 4)

LAUNCH OF LINDEN TOWN WEEK Region 10 May 15

NATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL Region 4 May 6-13

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY Countrywide May 26, 2016

> GUYANA NEW YORK CANADA WASHINGTON DC THE CARIBBEAN UNITED KINGDOM

FLOAT PARADE Region 4 May 26, 2016

GUYEXPO May 27, 2016

FOLK FESTIVAL May 31, 2016

LAUNCH OF JUBILEE LITFEST & DIGITAL TENT MAY 4, 2016 National Library, Georgetown.

TAGORE & GITANJALI May 8, 2016 Indian Monument Gardens, Georgetown

LUNCH WITH PETER KEMPADOO May 14, 2016 Port Mourant, Berbice



## CELEBRATION IN GUYANA

#### Reflect, Celebrate, Inspire

LAUREATES: Guyana Prize for Literature. May 19, 2016 National Library, Georgetown, Guyana,

LUNCH WITH EDGAR MITTELHOLZER May 20, 2016 State House, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

DEDICATION OF SPACE IN RECOGNITION OF GUYANA'S CREATIVE ARTISTS May 22, 2016 National Park, Georgetown.

OPENING OF JUBILEE LITERARY FAIR May 23, 2016 Arthur Chung Conference Center

o 9:30am. Opening of Exhibition on iconicGuyanese women.o 9:30am. Opening of the exhibition "They

Administered the State."

#### OPENING OF NATIONAL SYMPOSIA SERIES May 23, 2016

Arthur Chung Conference Center (10:00 am)

AWARD CEREMONY: NATIONAL CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION May 23: (7:00pm, Giftland Mall)



#### LITERARY FAIR CONTINUES May 24, 2016 Literary Fair continues Launch of the publication: Guyana at 50 National Symposia Series continues

#### LAUNCH OF 2X COFFEE TABLE PUBLICATIONS September 23, 2016 National Library (5:00pm)

PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY December 16, 2016 National Library (5:00pm)

#### LAUNCH OF GUYANA PRIZE FOR LITERATURE PUBLICATION December 16, 2016 National Library (5:00pm)



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## CELEBRATE THE **JUBILEE**

Reflect, Celebrate, Inspire

#### JAMAICA

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDEPENDENCE

- Publication of newspaper supplement May 26, 2016
- Independence Day Flag Raising May 26, 2016
  Emancipation Park, Kingston, Jamaica
- Health & Legal Aid Fair June, 2016
  Bog Walk, St. Catherine, Kingston, Jamaica
- Banquet/ Dinner Guest Speaker- the President of Guyana September, 2016 Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica
- Conference to coinside with the President's visit ( to be held at the UWI Regional Headquarters)
  Sep, 2016
  UWI Regional Headquarters-Kingston, Jamaica

#### CANADA

 Flag Raising Ceremony 26th May, 2016 Ottawa City Hall, Winnipeg City Hall;

50th Anniversary of Guyana's Independence Gala Banquet 28th May,2016 (6:00 PM- 1:00 AM) Canada Inn Polo Park



#### UNITED KINGDOM

- Guyana Gold Talks A Celebration of Guyanese cricket, 50 years since independence. Invited panel members include cricketing legends, Clive Lloyd CBE, Mike Atherton OBE, Professor Clem Seecharan and others.
  9th May, 2016
- Guyanese Films a series of short films from Guyana's rising film producers including Kojo McPherson.
  13th May, 2016
- \* National Heritage Concert with exceptional performances by talented Guyanese.
  15th May, 2016

#### OUR PEOPLE, OUR CULTURE, OUR HISTORY: CELEBRATING GUYANA'S GOI D



clemencio oceana GODDETTE

HOPPIE

marisa ann sean MORGAN-BONIE BUDNAH

paul BUDNAH

I AM BLACK

HE IS INDIAN

**OUR FAMILIES ARE AGAINST US** 

DEATH MIGHT BE MY ONLY ESCAPE ...

#### THE COLOUR OF RACE

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY: SONIA YARDE STAGE MANAGED BY: LADONNA KISSOON

SHOWING ONLY IN BERBICE

JUDIEE THEALTE FESTIVAL



## **IN GUYANA** EAT ST

The plays are **Playing Chess With A Blind Man** by Rae Wiltshire; Come Back to Melda by John Campbell; Some Other Nights by Nicholas Singh; Obeah Koksen by Professor Kenn Danns; Guilty **Pleasures** by Nicola Moonsammy; **Til Death** by Tashandra Inniss; Summer Breeze by Linden Isles; White House on Black Street by Clinton Duncan; House of Pressure by Ian Valz; Benjie Darling by Paloma Mohamed; Green Card Marriage by Harold Bascom; Sauda by Mosa Mathifa T; *Miriamy* by Frank Pilgrim; *Till Ah Find Ah Place* by Ronald Hollingsworth; *Journey to Freedom* by Francis Quamina Farrier; Colour of Race by Sonia Yarde and **Black Bush** by Sheik Shadeek

a place after the written by: RONALD HOLLINGSWORTH directed by: SHERON CAPOGAN-TAYLOR staged managed by: NICOLA MOONSAMMY





TICKETS: \$10,000 (ALL SEASON), \$1,500 (AUDITORIUM), \$1,000 (BALCONY) \*on sale @ Ministry of Education, Main Street & Theatre Guild Playhouse.



## IN GUYANA JUBILEE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDEPENDENCE

## Cineguyana Inc. & Government of Guyana Golden Jubilee Short Film Festival

Region 4-Diamond Secondary Region 10-Lichas Hall Region 4-Bladen Hall Secondary Region 4-Square of Revolution Region 5-Mahaicony Secondary Region 2-Anna Regina Secondary Region 6-NA Multilateral Region 7-Bartica Secondary Region 9-St Ignatius Secondary

23-Apr 7:00 PM 24-Apr 6:00 PM 30-Apr 7:00 PM 7 -May 7:00 PM 14-May 7:00 PM 15-May 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 21-May 7:00 PM 28-May 7:00 PM -Jun

**CineGuyana** 



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Symposium Sub-committee of 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York), Academic Grounding Working Group & Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.



## **GOLDEN JUBILEE NATIONAL SYMPOSIA SERIES**

Theme: Guyana at 50: Understanding Our Independence Journey

Come examine our history & traditions, evolution of Guyanese thought & contributions. Advance national development strategies.

#### MONDAY, MAY 23, 2016 TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016

9.30 A.M. - 6.00 P.M.

ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTER,

Georgetown, Guyana

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016

9.00 A.M.-6.00 P.M.

YORK COLLEGE - 94-20 Guy R Brewer Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11451

For more information or for complimentary tickets visit us at http://www.guyfolkfest.ort/guyana50 or http://celebrateguyana50thinnyc.com



Ministry of Education: Department of Culture, Youth and Sport 71-72, Main Street, South Cummingsburg Georgetown, Guyana Tel: (592) 226-3738, (592) 226-3665





## CaFA and RACA present

**FILM** 

TIMEHRI

**FESTIVAL** 

**GUYANESE + CARIBBEAN FILMS** 

May 18-20, 2016 10AM - 10PM MORAY HOUSE Adm: FREE

www.timehrifilmfestival.com

### 2016 TIMEHRI FILM FESTIVAL MAY 18 - 20, MORAY HOUSE, GUYANA

THE CARIBBEAN FILM ACADEMY & REWIND AND COME AGAIN LAUNCH THE INAUGURAL TIMEHRI FILM FESTIVAL

#### Showcasing Caribbean Film & Supporting Emerging Guyanese Filmmakers

The New York City based Caribbean Film Academy has teamed up with Caribbean-American culture blog Rewind & Come Again to present the inaugural Timehri Film Festival (TFF), which will run from May 18, 2016 – May 20, 2016 in Georgetown, Guyana, during the country's Golden Jubilee which celebrates its' 50th year of independence. Attendance to the three-day event will be free for film lovers and will celebrate Guyanese and Caribbean film with a full slate of short and feature length films, as well as offer a roster of film production workshops to up and coming filmmakers.

"After programming Caribbean films in New York for the past few years, it became evident filmmaking in Guyana is not progressing at the rate it is in other Caribbean countries. In addition, many of the great films being made in the Caribbean aren't being seen by Guyanese audiences," says TFF Director, Romola Lucas. She went on to add, "To date, there have been no real film festivals in Guyana. Being Guyanese myself, knowing we have many talented storytellers and wanting film to grow and thrive as an art in Guyana, we thought of starting a film festival there, as a way to fill both voids."

The Timehri Film Festival is a unique destination festival with both screenings and workshops taking place at one of Guyana's newest cultural centers, Moray House.

In addition to screening films from established directors and producers, TFF is also opening up a call for submissions. Filmmakers from Guyana, whether at home or abroad, are encouraged to submit their short films for consideration. Interested filmmakers should visit FILM FREEWAY, for more details and to submit their film. Submissions will be accepted until May 8, 2016.

As with many arts related ventures, financing a film festival is a challenge. We have been able to organize the Festival to this point with the help and support of our partner in Guyana, the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD) and a US-based sponsor, Blossoms of Guyana, both nonprofit organizations working in the Guyanese community.

To help defray the remaining costs, the Festival is also launching a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo. All funds raised will be put toward Festival expenses – venue and marketing costs. Visit our INDIEGOGO CAMPAIGN to view and contribute to the campaign.

To stay up to date with the Timehri Film Festival, and for information on the films being screened and the screening schedule, visit our Website, like TFF on Facebook, Follow us on Instagram @TimehriFF and the hashtag #TimehriFF16.

Timehri Film Festival (TFF): TFF is an annual film festival with mission of showcasing the work of Guyanese and Caribbean filmmakers in the Region and Diaspora. The Festival will contribute to the continued growth of Guyana's film industry by working to encourage and inspire emerging Guyanese filmmakers.

The Caribbean Film Academy (CAFA): Established in 2012, CAFA is a New York not-for-profit organization, dedicated to the promotion and support of Caribbean filmmaking and filmmakers, in the region and the diaspora. CAFA's world is focused on promoting and sharing the art of storytelling through film from the unique perspective of the Caribbean.

Rewind And Come Again (RACA): Founded in 2008, RACA began as an online conversation about Caribbean-American life. The site has since grown to include content covering the expression of Caribbean culture throughout the diaspora. Dedicated to digging beneath stereo-typical representations of the region, RACA works to shine a light on and

spark conversations about the evolution of the Caribbean experience.



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### "A Chilling Tale Of The Supernatural"

A 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary Masterpiece from the mind of accomplished Guyanese author Peter Halder

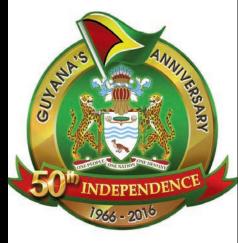


**Book Launching in Brooklyn** SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2016 — 5:00 P.M.

GUYANA ARTS & CULTURAL ASSN. (GACC) located @ St. Stephen's Church Extension (2nd Floor)

2806 Newkirk Ave, Brooklyn (bet. E. 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> streets) (Copies available at ENG Caribbean Vision Center — 1012 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn)

For more info call: (718) 469-8131



## CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK "Reflect Our Journey-Forging Unity and Embracing Modernity"

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#### GUYANA'S 50TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE (NEW YORK) CONSULATE GENERAL OF GUYANA-308 W.38TH ST., NEW YORK, NY 10018

#### FOR INFORMATION OR RSVP: 212 947 5115 or 929 263 2557

EMAIL RSVP: nyc50thrsvp@gmail.com VISIT US AT: www.celebrateguyana50thinnyc.com



#### GUYANA – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE – 1966 - 2016 GUYANA JUBILEE WEEK CELEBRATION NYC JUNE 4 JUNE 4 JUNE 4 JUNE 4 JUNE 4

#### JUNE 4: INTER-COUNTY PRESIDENT'S CUP CRICKET MATCH

9.30 a.m.: Idiewild Park Springfield Blvd & 149th Ave., Rosedale, Queens, NY 11413 Guest of Honor: Prime Minister of Guyana & several Guyanese national players

#### JUNE 4: INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE

1:00 p.m.: York College Performing Arts Center: 94-45 Guy R Brewer Blvd, Queens NY 11451 –Queens Guest of Honor: Prime Minister of Guyana

#### JUNE 5: SYMPOSIUM:

9:00 a.m. York College Large Lecture Theater 94-20 Guy Brewer Blvd Queens NY 11451 Guest of Honor: Prime Minister of Guyana

#### JUNE 6: EXHIBITION OF

10:00, a.m.: **GUYANESE ART,** Aljira Center for Contemporary Art: 591 Broad St, Newark, NJ 07102

#### JUNE 8: "GUYANA GIVES BACK" GUYANESE VOLUNTEER DAY

New York City and Tri-State (See Overleaf)

#### JUNE 9: OFFICAL FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

5.00 p.m.: Newark City Hall Square 920 Broad St. Newark, NJ 07102 Guest of Honor: Prime Minister of Guyana & Mayor of Newark, NJ

### JUNE 10: "INVEST GUYANA" BUSINESS & INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

9.00 a.m. The Harvard Club 35 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036 Speakers include Guyana's Ministers of Business, Finance, Natural Resources, Public Infrastructure, Tourism & Agriculture

#### JUNE 11: PRESIDENT;S CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT & YOUTH FUN DAY

10.00 a.m. South Shore High School Park Flatlands & Ralph Avenues, Brooklyn, NY

#### JUNE 11: STATE DINNER

8.00 p.m. Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel & Towers 811 7th Avenue, W53rd. Street New York, NY 10019 Keynote Speaker: H.E. The President of Guyana Mistress of Ceremonies: Actress CCH Pounder

#### JUNE 12: UNITY PARADE "Mashramani"

#### 11.00 a.m. & UNITY CONCERT

Starting at Church & Bedford Avenues and ending at South Shore High School Park Flatlands & Ralph Avenues, Brooklyn, NY

#### 4.00 p.m. POST PARADE UNITY CONCERT & CULTURAL SHOW

South Shore High School Park Flatlands & Ralph Avenues, Brooklyn, NY

GUYANA'S 50TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE (NEW YORK) CONSULATE GENERAL OF GUYANA



#### GUYANA – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE – 1966 - 2016 "GUYANA GIVE BACK" - GUYANESE VOLUNTEER DAY FREE MEDICAL CLINICS. FREE LEGAL SERVICES

#### DATE/ Time L

JUNE 8

**JUNE 9** 

#### LOCATION

JUNE 7:1177 Nostrand Av1 pm- 4pmBrooklyn, NY 11225(between Hawthorne & Fennimore)

Brookdale Hospital

Tri-Borough Home Care Atlantis Foot Care 319 Utica Av (Corner of President) Brooklyn, NY 11213

HERO/ Dr. Mahabir

NYC Health + Hospitals Queens 82-68 164th Street, Jamaica, NY 11432

> St Monica Episcopal Connecticut

Saint Clare Hospital 25 Pocono Rd- Danville NJ 07834

Restoration Temple Assembly Church 4610 Church Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center 585 Schenectady Av, Brooklyn NY 11203 ACTIVITIES

Foot Care Screening Blood Pressure Presentation on Foot Care

#### **Mini Health Fair**

Open House Foot Care Screening Blood Pressure Presentation on Foot Care

Medical Clinic

Medical Clinic

**OBGYN Screening** 

Hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol screening

Medical Clinic

BP, Breast Health

CONTACT

Dr. Janice Mclean -917-531-7901 Dr Monica Joseph -718-953-1043 Dr. Jackie Gulstone -718-207-4143

> Dr. Janice Mclean -917-531-7901 Dr Gordon John 718-604-8370 Dr .Jackie Gulstone - 718-207-4143 Ms. Claire Patterson -646-331-5493

Dr. Benn Dr. Jackie Gulstone -718-207-4143 Dr.Rohan Soma -201-919-0774

Dr. Candace Cummings. - 347 968-439

> Dr. Janice Mclean -917-531-7901 Ms. Enid Dillard -718-604-5201

FREE LEGAL SERVICES: WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2016, BROOKLYN: Rozario & Associates, P.C. Address: 175 Remsen St #602, Brooklyn, NY 11201 Phone:(718) 859-2325 Hours: Open - 9AM–7PM

> QUEENS: The Law Office of Cheddi B. Jagan II, Esq. Address: 122-09 Liberty Ave, New York, 11419 Phone:(347) 647-0428 Appointments only Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.





- Learn about Guyana Investment incentives, taxation and legal environment
- Investment opportunities in Guyana
- Case studies of successful investments
- Bring your investment proposal for a one-on-one review and discussion with a Minister or Investment Officer

## GUYANA MEANS BUSINESS

#### INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Fri. June 10, 2016 | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Harvard Club of New York City 35 West 44th St., New York, NY 10036

Organized by:

Guyanese American Independence Commemoration Committee, Inc. c/o Consulate General of Guyana - 308 W. 38th St. New York, NY 10018 Tel: 917-819-6655 | Guyanainvestors@gmail.com www.celebrateguyanaS0thinnyc.com

Doing business in Guyana is now easier with the implementation of attractive invest policies to deliver higher efficiencies, responsiveness and services to investors. Opportunities abound in the rich and vast land of Guyana, now is the best time for investors.

Admission: \$250/person. Register Online at: https://form.jotform.com/positiveplans/admission For information please call 917-819-6655



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NIS EXCLUSIVE AUGADIES OF AN DWID ARTHUR GRANGER MSS INDENTOR DI COOTINING LEVELS OF OCTINA

MAYOR RAS J. BARAKA AND THE NEWARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL GUYANA'S 50TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITT CORDIALLY INVITE YOU, YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES TO

City Of Newark Ras J. Baraka, Mayor

Municipal Council Mildred C. Crump, Council President Augusto Amador, Council Member, East Ward John S. James, Council Member, South Ward Carlos M. Gonzalez, Council Member-at-large Anibal Ramos, Jr., Council Member, North Ward Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Council Member, Central Ward Joseph A. Mccallum, Council Member, West Ward Eddie Osborne, Council Member-at-large Luis A. Quintana, Council Member-at-large Deputy Mayor Ugo Nwaokoro

### Jubilee Flag Raising Ceremony

#### THURSDAY JUNE 09TH, 2016

COME AND CELEBRATE IN UNITY, GUYANA'S RICH CULTURE, MUSIC, FOOD AND HISTORY, WE WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO BE PART OF THIS HISTORIC CELEBRATION.

CONTACT INFO: DR. SANDRA HARTE, CHAIR 973)495-2821 MR. CARLYLE ADAMS, CO-CHAIR 862)228-7282 MR. RUDYARD FRANKLIN, CO-CHAIR 973)464-5507 EMAIL: GUYANASOTHJUBILEE@GMAIL.COM FACEBOOK:GUYANA JUBILEE WWW.CELEBRATEGUYANASOTHINNYC.COM







#### CELEBRATE GUYANA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE: STRUGGLES, STRENGTHS: THOSE WHO STEPPED FORWARD





#### **GUYANA AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION** (501 c 3) Organization, Presents A

## Black Tie Allire **Gala Night/Honorees & Scholarship Awards**

#### In commemorating

Sat., May 7, 2016 8pm - 2am

#### **Robert Treat Hotel 50 Park Place Newark, NJ 07102**

#### **Cocktail Hour 7pm - 8pm Dinner/Program start 8pm**

To place an advertisement, shoutout in the Award Night Journal, please contact: Guyana America Heritage, 973-951-9898 Guyana 50th Independence Team Guyana Cultural Association - Guyana Unite NJ





966-2016

Independent

Senator Roxanne Persaud









R.I.P.



Sheefa



**Donation:** \$65

Honorees



## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF Ras Michael Jeure Rootsman to the Bone; Artistic to the Core

Dr. David Hinds

Ras Michael Jeune was my friend, my mentor, my brother. In a little wooden house at Buxton-Friendship Line Top he taught me and others how to write and read poetry and how to write period. He taught us drama and storytelling and short story writing. He is for me Guyana's best short story writer of his generation. He was a dub-poet before dub poetry was popular. He had a knack for capturing the rhythm of the people in his art.

Mike introduced me to the poetry/chant of Andre Tanker and the artistry of Ken Corsbie, Marc Matthews, Johnny Agard and Henry Muttoo. It was he who explained to me that Walter Rodney was an artist too and that Kwayana had that touch of genius. I remember how he got us little boys and girls of the 1970s Buxton into his poem—You Black like me/ You Poor like me/ And poverty is yuh Legacy.. That poem opened my eyes at a very young age to the intersection of Race and Class and the consequences for the lives of people around me. Rupert Roopnarine would capture Mike doing that poem in his film, "The Terror and the Times"

Mike never gave me the impression that he cared for formal politics; he was never a political activist in that sense. His political activism was in his art—his varied art. Even when he was talking to you about regular life he was making art—the organic artist.

#### CELEBRATE GUYANA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE: STRUGGLES. DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHS

CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTOR

Mike was also a teacher in the formal system. He taught at Kwayana's County High turned Republic Cooperative High School in Buxton. His students had a broader understanding of English Literature than the rest of us. He took his artistry into the classroom and it made a difference.

Michael was steeped in political reasoning; always reaching for philosophy. He was the first person to clarify for me the meaning of democracy and dictatorship—it came out in an argument he had with a "lil hot hand" name John Cromwell. He and John would remain lifelong friends. I learned about political art from him; he was always making a political point in his work— a cultural worker who stood on the side of the poor and oppressed.

### Ras Michael Jeune:

Rootsman to the Bone; Artistic to the Core

Dr. David Hinds

Our recent conversations were long and variedabout capitalism, culture and art and about Guyana. Our last oneoccurred a few months ago on a Friday morning around 2 'o clock on Friendship Middle Walk, Buxton, in front of Andrew Night Spot. He gave me a treatise on how politicians change when the get into office. He was glad the government had changed but he was not optimistic about Guyana. I often think about how Guyana's politics have destroyed optimism in our best products. Mike's parting words to me were "Twilly it's your responsibility to restore Buxton and Black People to the place that made it possible for you to chant like you doing." I told him I am always willing to help. I knew his message was less about me and more about the condition of our people-that there was and is another way.

He promised me to write something for the young people in Buxton fusing Emancipation and Independence for this year's Emancipation observances in the village. I don't know where he was with that project at the time of his death.

I love you Mike. Go back to your ancestors and continue your work of the mind and of poor people looking to break free. This year's Emancipation at Buxton Line Top would not be the same without your voice. But the first libation will be for you.

Rootsman to bone. Artistic to the Core. And, yes Ras Michael Jeune earned and deserves a National Award for his contribution to Guyana.



## THE TIMES AND THOUGHTS OF AN ELDERLY GUYANESE GENTLEMAN

Francis Quamina Farrier

Some years ago, while in the Stabroek Market area of Georgetown, I almost got shell shocked when a 'youth man' addressed me as "BIG MAN". I've never been in a war zone, but that "BIG MAN" salutation was like an H-Bomb which had exploded right in front of me. It was the very first time that someone had addressed me like that, and it took some weeks before it finally sunk in, that I was never going to be a young man again. Never again would the Media refer to me as the "rising YOUNG playwright." Never again. I was now a "BIG MAN." I was now an Elder. Thankfully, many years previously, I had read in a magazine, that there are "Ole men" and there are "Elderly Gentlemen." So, I decided that I would not ever consider myself as an "Old Man", but instead, as an "Elderly Gentleman", as the years, like "Ole Man River", continue to, "just keeps rolling along". Right now, I am enjoying my 70s during Guyana's 50th.

During my late teen years and into my early twenties, I was involved in the Theatre Guild of Guyana. There were members of all age groups in that prestigious theatre organization. Many were people who held high office in the Public and Private Sectors in the then British Guiana. There were managers, there were doctors, there were lawyers, there were professors; there were also quite a number of expatriates who were members of the Theatre Guild of British Guiana. And most importantly, there were many members of a certain age group; they were many older folks who were active members of the Theatre Guild of those Colonial years, and they mentored the younger ones. One of my greater achievements during those early years at the Theatre Guild, was winning the Best Actor Award at the National Drama Festival of 1963, which was staged at the Playhouse, and at which St. Lucian Poet and Dramatist Derek Walcott, was the Adjudicator.

Those older members of the Theatre Guild were mentors of us the younger ones, and taught us many of life's enduring lessons. To always be on time being a principal one.

#### THE TIMES AND THOUGHTS OF AN ELDERLY GUYANESE GENTLEMAN

Francis Quamina Farrier

Shows at the Theatre Guild always started on time. Always, except the time when a particular late start was part of the show. It was one of the annual satirical shows entitled, "On the Brink", in which the first skit was about the recently arrived Governor Sir Richard Luvte, who's name was pronounced as "late". So that late start was a spoof on Sir Richard (Late). The English actor, Michael Norsworthy, who played the governor, entered after that late start with auditorium lights down and stage lights up. Michael walked swiftly from stage left, made a sudden stop at stage center, and looking embarrassingly at the audience, stuttered, "Sorry I'm Late". The laughter and applause lasted for over one long minute, and was probably heard all the way to the seawalls. The Theatre Guild Brink Shows were the fore-runner of Ron Robinson's Theatre Company's annual Link Show, which has entertained audiences for over thirty years. I had the opportunity of performing in both "Brink" and "Link".

Growing up in the then McDoom Village, neighbouring Agricola, on the East Bank of Demerara, I lived in a culture in which Elders were well respected. A male over forty was addressed as "Uncle" or "Neighbour" by teens and pre-teens. A female of a certain age, was addressed as "Auntie" or "Neighbour". So when I got submerged in the Theatre Guild culture where everyone, irrespective of age or stage, could be addressed by their first name without any 'handle', I was very uncomfortable. It took quite a while for this country boy, to grasp and accept that "First Name" theatre culture. However, what was very important, was that along with the first name, came respect: a respect which was vertical in that horizontal group of humanity. The older members of the Theatre Guild showed respect for the vounger members and they, the older members, received that respect two-fold in response from the vounger members.

In more recent years, as Guyana travelled closer and closer to our 50th. Independence Anniversary Jubilee Year milestone, I realized that I was "Growing Old Gracefully". At least, that is how I saw myself. I began to find myself being asked for advice more than had been happening previously, and I began to give advice more freely - whenever asked. Then one day, it dawned on me, that I was not going to be an "Old Man". I was going to be "An Elderly Gentleman." I was going to have clean and active fun in my older years, which I can physically and intellectually manage, as I approached that Biblical "four score and ten", and beyond. And why not! I am now 78 and doing many of the things which bring me joy, and which bring joy to others; especially doing my Storytelling and Poetry Performances, not only in Guyana but also overseas. I thank God that I have already lived longer than some of my boyhood peers. For over fifteen years, during the mid 1980s and into the late 1990s, I had interviewed hundreds of older persons for my weekly Radio Show, "The Eighty Plus Club", and I learned quite a lot about life and living in Guyana and those other countries where I interviewed Elders for The Eighty Plus Club.

In that half hour Sunday broadcast Radio programme. I interviewed Elders from all the ten Regions of Guvana: from Mabaruma in the very north of the country, to Aishalton in the deep south Rupununi. I also interviewed elders in all of the Caricom countries: from Suriname to Antigua to Belize and to The Bahamas. I also interviewed older folks in the USA, in Canada, in Britain, in Australia and in New Zeland. The oldest person was Matilda Lewis of Georgetown, Guyana; she was 95 at the time I had interviewed her, but I kept in touch with her over the next eighteen years of her life. She passed away at age 113 being the oldest known person in the Caribbean and South America at the time. She had maintained her mental faculties up to the very end. Matilda Lewis was also one of those special persons who lived across three centuries - the nineteenth, the twentieth and the twenty first centuries.

One of the happiest moments I had with one of the hundreds of members of The Eighty Plus Club, was dancing with centenarian Ethlene Dates, at State House, in Georgetown. At 100 years of age, she still had her teen-age figure and danced with such grace! We were Special Guests at State House on the occasion of the fiftieth Wedding anniversary of President Cheddi Jagan and First lady Janet Jagan. That evening, my dancing with Ethlene Dates almost stole the show from the Hosts. In more recent times, at age 78, I have been doing shows mainly of Poetry and Storytelling. The most recent were at the Playhouse, the National Library in Georgetown, a number of schools in Region #3, and the Burtonsville Library in Maryland, USA.

I do not know whether I will live to be 113 like Mathilda Lewis, or even become a centenarian like Ethlene Dates. But what I do know, is that I will continue to consider myself, not as an "Old Man", but as an "Elderly Gentleman", as I enjoy my senior years, and as Guyana continues its journey "Onward, Upward" to it's 75th Independence Anniversary. Will I be around at that time? Will you be around at that time? Who knows!



OUR PEOPLE, OUR CULTURE, OUR HISTORY: CELEBRATING GUYANA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CULTURE

A LOOK BACK AT GUYANA'S MOST ACCOMPLISHED BALLET DANCER

## Helen Tait PROFESSIONAL BALLET DANCER, POET, WRITER, CHOREOGRAPHER, PRODUCER INSTRUCTOR

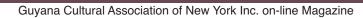
Stabroek News Staff Writer

Given the play The Last of the Redmen for actor Clairmonte Taitt, his friend and colleague in the theatre. They both built their early career during the first decade of the Theatre Guild in Georgetown and worked together again several years later in Barbados. The original intention was that Taitt would perform the play, which was quite fitting since it is actually his fictionalised biography, (but Gilkes ended up performing it himself). Very thinly disguised, it is, among many other things, a documentary of the legendary Woodbine House in Cummingsburg, Georgetown, owned by the talented Taitt family and about the generations of artistic activity at which they were the centre as hosts, facilitators, producers and performers.

This complex drama often makes nostalgic journeys to the culture and society of Georgetown's coloured middle class in a colonial era with a strong emphasis on art and achievement. Such visits are reminiscent of similar flashbacks to the past in another of Gilkes's works, the collection of poems Joanstown, which has its own share of autobiography. It paints portraits of the Kingston district in a garden city whose character has changed and whose dissipated values remain immortalised only in art and literature.

My Life, My Country by Helen Taitt is another document that shares those qualities with Gilkes's works. It is very closely related and treats the same subjects as the play because it is the autobiography of Clairmonte Taitt's sister, Helen, who made the theatre her life-long career, performing, composing and teaching right up to the end of her life. She was Guyana's best known, most accomplished and acclaimed professional dancer, and was also a choreographer, writer, dance instructor, and a specialist in ballet. She sketches the history of Woodbine House, its cultural activities, theatrical productions and the distinguished roll call of some of Guyana's foremost artists who were its guests, or who performed or exhibited there.

Taitt scrupulously avoids dates in her account; it is remarkable for the absence of any citation of precise log or diary entries of when any event took place. But despite that minor observation, the text provides another price-less document of British Guiana before the war. She is a first-hand witness of the existence and conditions on the Corentyne sugar estates and their adjacent villages.



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She covers the same social history treated by Gilkes, giving a personality to old Georgetown and bringing to it the testimony of one who was personally involved as a member of the celebrated Taitt family. To increase its value, this book is the only true record in existence of the life and work of one of the nation's most remarkable artists.

It covers decades of her experiences travelling and working in the USA, Europe and the Caribbean, ending when she eventually returns with the intention of resettling in Guyana just after October 1992. She first left home for training in social work at university in Jamaica, then again to study dance at Balanchine's School of American Ballet in New York, and later to pursue her career further afield. Among the schools, studios and companies she set up were the Berlin Art Circle, the Barbados Art Circle and the Taitt Dance Theatre.

Janet Jagan, to whom Taitt entrusted her autobiography (originally submitted as a weekly serial in the Mirror (January 10 to May 16, 1993), adds an introduction which helps to place the book (published 2006 and reprinted 2008) and the life of its author in useful perspective.

Helen Taitt was a writer as well as dancer, choreographer, instructor, manager, and directed many of her stage productions. My Life, My Country is remarkable for the quality of its narrative. Taitt, who also wrote poems, exhibits a consciousness of craft and turns out a book whose narration is worthy of fiction after the fashion of Denise Harris or even Pauline Melville in her employment and control of occasional humour.

There are several very interesting and revealing accounts. Perhaps Taitt's best known dramatic work is the musical Stabroek Fantasy which has long been attributed in perhaps all the records to another author. Taitt recalls its creation at her home Woodbine House. "One morning I awoke with the details of an entire show in mind... nothing like that had ever happened to me before! The story centred around a group of Georgetown, Stabroek Market hucksters, and I called it Stabroek Fantasy. Scene by scene came as if I had seen it all before. It was very successful" with music by Hugh Sam, and attracted the interest of radio and an American film company. She performed it with "a group of twelve young people and called us Theatre 13... Unfortunately the belief that thirteen was an unlucky number was upheld in this case. At our first meeting after the performances, we were informed by number 13 that she had sent my script to Washington DC and copyrighted Stabroek Fantasy in her name!"

In another chapter she describes the finding/founding of Woodbine House which was to become so important in Guyana cultural history, discovered on Murray Street when her father, Government Medical Officer Dr Taitt, was transferred to Georgetown and her mother went house hunting. There are accounts of productions involving the work of several of the country's most famous artists in whose early development the house played a part. They involved Arthur Seymour, Stanley Greaves, Ron Savory, Hugh Sam, Wilbert Holder, Cicely Robinson, the Police Male Voice Choir and the Woodside Choir. Of much significance was the discovery of Philip Moore. "When I was a Welfare Officer on the Corentyne Coast, I came across a cottage covered in carvings and paintings. It was the home of our own Philip Moore, and I decided that Guiana must see his creations. Happy indeed I was when at last I brought them to Georgetown and built a shed to house them at the Guiana Art Centre, where they excited much interest during a month-long 'Jamboree of Arts' at which he taught wood carving."

Helen Taitt's life story is that of one who persevered, realizing her determination to be a professional dancer and pursuing a long career in Germany (mainly), the USA, France, Holland, Switzerland, Dominica, St Lucia, Barbados and Guyana. She also tells how her residency in Germany began. "The German Ambassador in Georgetown offered me a three-week visit to Germany as a guest of his government... It was quite enjoyable being a real VIP for the first time in my life and I made the most of it."

The details of her career as a ballet dancer make impressive reading with its story of professionalism, undisputed talent, recognition and achievement. But it also bears a sub-text of the potentially world-conquering fame that could have been hers were it not for the consistent and repeated acts of racism that definitely interfered with her career and advancement. She tells many tales of open admission of her superior talent and proficiency, accompanied by confessions by white agents that there was no place for a non-white ballet dancer on the American stage.



#### **CELEBRATING WOMEN OF GUYANA**



## **GUYANA FIRST**

**LADIES** (corrected) First Published in Guyanese Girls Rock



#### SANDRA GRANGER

(current First Lady of Guyana) Sandra Granger is the wife of Guyana's current President, HE David Granger. Prior to becoming first lady, she served for 18 years as senior programme manager at the Caricom Secretariat. She was also a lecturer at the University of Guyana. She studied

English Literature and Portuguese at the University of Guyana and Brazilian Literature at the University of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. First Lady Sandra Granger is an advocate for women's and children's rights in Guyana.



#### **DEOLATCHMEE RAMOTAR:** (2011-2015)

Deolatchmee Ramotar is the wife of former President Donald Ramotar. She has a background in Nursing and Education and is an advocate for women's and children's issues. She also spent a few years working in the Accounting industry prior to becoming the first Lady of Guyana.



#### VARSHNIE SINGH-JAGDEO (1999-2007)

Varshnie Singh-Jadeo was the wife of former President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo. While in this role, she served as Chairperson of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child. The couple separated in 2007, and President Jagdeo continued his term until 2011.



#### **JANET JAGAN** (1992-1997)

The late Janet Jagan was the wife of the late President Cheddi Jagan. Born in the Chicago, IL in 1920, she became the first female President of Guyana when her husband died during his presidency. She served from December 19, 1997, to August 11, 1999. Prior

to this appointment she also served as the first female Prime Minister of Guyana from March 17, 1997, to December 19, 1997. She was awarded Guyana's highest national award, the Order of Excellence, in 1993, and the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Gold Medal for Women's Rights in 1998.

#### JOYCE HOYTE

#### (1985-1992)

The late Joyce Hoyte was the wife of former President of Guyana, the late Hugh Desmond Hoyte, who died in 2002. She was First lady of Guyana from 1985 to 1992, and died in



2012. She was described by many in both the political and social spheres as " a lady" who represented and petitioned for the needs of all Guyanese both as first lady and afterwards.



#### VIOLA BURNHAM (1980-1985)

The late Viola Burnham was the wife of the late Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, the first Executive President of Guyana who died in 1985. She was the first female to be appointed Vice-President and Deputy

Prime Minister in the late 1980's. She was a Latin teacher until 1967 and also served as the Ministers of Education, Social Development and Infrastructure in the Government of Guyana, under both her husband and, later, President Hugh Desmond Hoyte. Mrs. Burnham died in 2003.



#### **DOREEN CHUNG**

(1970-1980)

The late Doreen Chung was the wife of former President Arthur Chung, the first President of the Republic of Guyana. She was First Lady of Guyana from 1970 to 1980, and died in 2009.



#### SHEILA BERNICE LATASTE-BURNHAM (1911-2011)

A Trinidadian by birth, the late Sheila Burnham played an active role in the women's movement of the PNC then known as the Women's Auxillary Movement. She was also active during the turbulent days of

the early sixties supporting her husband. In the women's movement she worked closely with Winifred Gaskin, Raj Latchmansingh, Neta Fredricks, Lucille Cox David, Jane Phillips Gay, Gertie Allsopp and Mary Bissember. She worked professionally as an optician.



#### PATRICIA ROSE

(1966-1969)

The late Lady Patricia Rose was the wife of the late Sir David Rose who was the First Governor General of Guyana. A medical doctor, Lady Rose was known for her pioneering work at the Mahaica Hospital in the

Hansen's Disease in-house and outreach programmes. She received the Golden Arrow of Achievement in 1980 and the Cacique Crown of Honour in 1987 for her outstanding work in the field of medicine in Guyana, and has also published many papers on leprosy, and was a referee of medical manuscripts for the medical journal Leprosy Review. Lady Rose returned to her country of birth, England in February, 1988 after working for some 18 years at the Mahaica Hospital.

## US BASED GUYANESE TRACK ATHLETES ON THE ROAD TO RIO





The women's 4x200m relay victory at the Armory Track Invitational in New York on February 7th of this year signals the resurgence of Guyana's track and field in a big way. The team of Kadecia Baird, Alita Moore, Melissa Caddle and Shenika King ran away with our hearts and the win, beating both the USA and France. Each week since then, Guyanese athletes have posted world ranking performances.

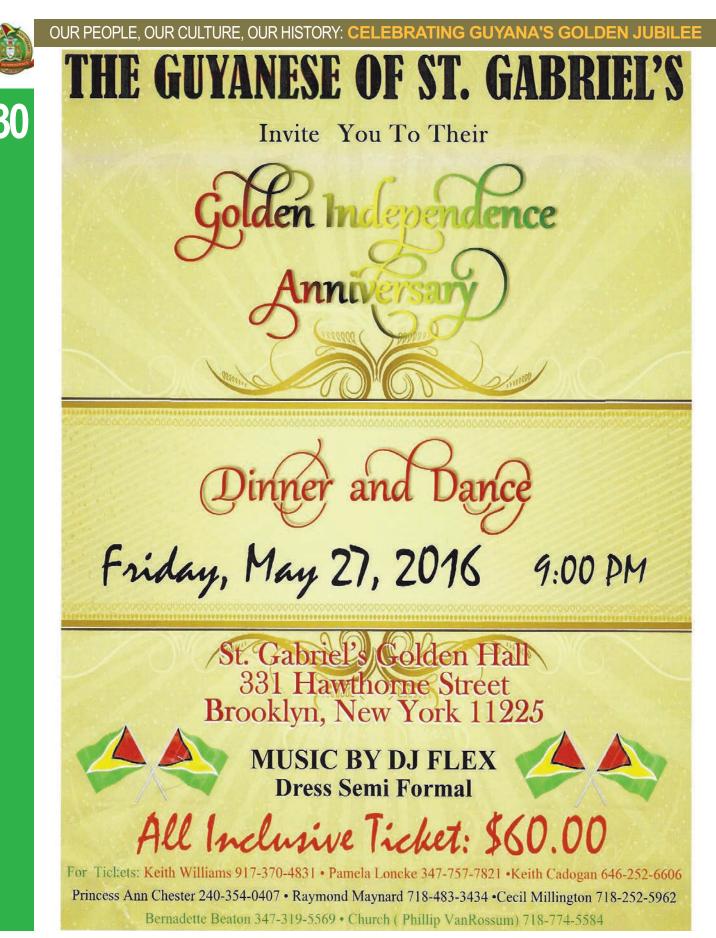
The world's highest ranked athlete is Troy Doris in the triple jump. His leap of 16.75 meters is the 15th furthest jump in the world. Barely off the Olympic qualifier, will Troy be focusing on outdoor competitions to make his mark and secure his trip to Rio, Brazil, venue of the 2016 Olympics. Just behind him is Jermaine Griffith in the 400m. His time of 46.39 on March 6th set a new mark for the Guyanese national indoor record, and catapulted him to the 33rd spot in the world.

Guyana's outdoor 400m record holder, Winston George, posted 47.13 in his indoor debut at the Valentine Invitational in Boston. He also won the Armory's World's Last Chance meet on March 6th. Another 400m runner - Jason Yaw - also in his first indoor season, posted a best time of 47.65. Yaw, George and Griffith were to team up with Stephan James to compete in the 4x400 relay at the World Championships in Portland on March 18-20. Unfortunately, the team was scratched at the last minute due to an injury James' suffered.

The short-distance sprinters - Adam Harris and Jeremy Bascom posted season best times of 6.77 and 6.71 respectively in the 60m. Harris, Guyana's Olympian from 2008, will be the lone representative at the World Championships later this month.

On the women's side, Kadecia Baird, Guyana's junior national record holder over 400m recorded a season best time of 54.35 on the way to her win at the Fastback Invitational at Ocean Breeze, Staten Island. Shank King, daughter of weightlifter Shondell King, was fourth in the Big East in the 400m, representing St. John's University on February 28th. A week later, she was 4th at the ECAC championships in Boston, and lowered her personal best time to 55.72. Brenessa Thompson set personal best performances in both the 60m and 200m at the SEC championships on february 27. Her times of 7.49 (60m) and 24.01 (200m) were good for 22nd in both events. All the athletes are scheduled to compete at the Aliann Pompey Invitational on June 18th at the National Track Stadium in Leonora in Guyana.

\*We are extremely proud of these athletes and ask that you support them in whatever way you can, particularly in this year of Guyana's Golden Jubilee.









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