

GUYANA FOLK

And Culture

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12

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FROM GCA, GACC & SWS



2 GUYANA FOLK

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Facebook: Guyana Cultural Association of New York

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*“Like a jig shakes a loom, like a web is spun a pattern,
 all are involved, all are consumed”*

– Martin Carter.

Season's Greetings to all from the Diaspora to the homeland. At a time when the future is as unpredictable as the weather, let us give thanks, through prayers and good deeds, guided by our traditions and hope for generations to come. Perseverance and collective will, not fear nor anger, are the essence to overcoming the uncertainties that currently resonate across our borders North and South, tugging at the viability of our transnational existence. Analyst Verian Mentis-Barker suggests that this is a time for “introspection instead of castigation”.

In this November/December edition, we capture stories and provide information that represent seasonal millstones, diversity in accomplishments and dimensions of our heritage, within a diasporic socio-cultural context, past and present. Despite what appears to be a crisis of governance, there is much about our collective cultural traditions to celebrate and embrace with pride.

As the Guyana Cultural Association continues to be steadfast and determined in its efforts to promote and propagate various aspects of Guyanese culture, we encourage you to join us in our mission. Peter Halder takes us back to a Guyanese Christmas we can only dream about and reminisce with a pleasant nostalgic imaginary and re-creation of the past. We are reminded of the remarkable achievement and sacrifices of our veterans both at home and abroad. Our focus on youth recognizes the talents, diversity, energy and enthusiasm of organizations such as the Young Leadership Academy and accomplishment of our athletes beyond feats of physicality. Henry Muttoo's Moon on a Rainbow Shawl as presented by John Hearne brilliantly portrays, through creative artistry, the deleterious experience under systems of oppression and the heroic efforts to survive. The article on WE GOT OIL (Part 2) urges us to be mindful of “the socio-economic and psychological pitfalls of the incipient influx of petro -dollars”. These are some of the highlights of this year-end edition of our magazine. In addition, the sharing information through announcements is viewed as an important Diaspora community service. The launching of the first book publication by the University of Guyana Press entitled Dynamics of Diaspora Engagement: People, Policy, Practice, is a significant milestone.

Enjoy the Magazine!

**Once again we wish you a joyous holiday season,
 happy Kwanza and a prosperous New Year!**

Dr. Lear Matthews,

November/December Editor

Christmas Greetings!



*Let Christmas Not Become A Thing
Let Christmas not become a thing
Merely of merchant's trafficking,
Of tinsel, bell and holly wreath
And surface pleasure, but beneath
The childish glamour, let us find
Nourishment for soul and mind.
Let us follow kinder ways
Through our teeming
human maze,
And help the age of
peace to come
From a Dreamer's
martyrdom.*

By Madeline Morse





Merry Christmas

by Dr. Juliet Emanuel

**THE GCA SUMMER
HERITAGE WORKSHOP SERIES**

Christmas Party 2018

Photographs by Carl Hazlewood, Pat Jordon-Langford

You have never seen sprightlier elves. They danced, they spun, they kicked, in their red costumes as they led in a most appropriate Santa Claus for the Annual SWS Christmas Party for Kids on Sunday, December 23, 2018. Gleefully accompanied by a group of small Christmas helpers, virtual angels resplendent in red and gold, Santa dispensed his magic as more than 60 children exhibited the innocence that comes at this time of year. The elves and angels came courtesy of Vimpressions Dance School, owned and operated by our own Verna Walcott. SWS magic this year came courtesy of many supporters of GCA of NY, Inc. They included Metroplus, thank you Leroy Beresford for wearing that Santa suit, Ronald McDonald House, Clare Dougall and Racquel Morgan of Topsy Turvie Kids Spa, Lorna Welshman of HEROC and friends, Sybil Chester, Kevin Wallace, Roschell Powdar, Patrick Buddington of IMC Media, Cleveland John, Lorna Campbell, and other generous individuals too many to mention.

THANK YOU for your SUPPORT





We wish you a
Mery Christmas
and a Happy New Year!



It was an intergenerational group grooving there at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Auditorium on Newkirk Ave in Brooklyn. Sir Flantis provided his musical expertise to the appreciative crowd; SWS interns, such as, Xavier, showed their own prowess in their unique ways; Maurice Blenman, SWS Co-Director and Assistant Cultural Director, was front and center, various GCA Directors, including, Verna Walcott White, Penny Bascomb, Jackie Newton, Donna Walcott Mitchell, Carl Hazlewood, Claire Patterson-Monah and Juliet Emanuel and GCA administrative staff, Jackie Medford, all served the event for the children's entertainment and pleasure while Rose October Edun, acted as an impeccable MC. Claire Goring, the virtual conductor of the event skillfully managed the program of the entire event in her usual seamless way. Oswald Bobb filmed the entire event the video taping of which included shout-outs to our compatriots back home.

Not to be ignored are the volunteers from the Bascomb family who, as Santa's helpers, assisted with the quick and easy dispatch of the age appropriate gifts.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Merriment abounded. Folks did not want to leave but magic fade if there is too much light shone on it.

And so we at GCA wish all the children of SWS, the community here, in Guyana and in the Diaspora, the memory of magic, and a sprinkling of innocence and resilience for the twelve months ahead.

As Vidur Dindayal reminds us, in Guyana at this time of year we celebrate life and traditions that define Guyana and so ---

**A restorative Kwanzaa!
Merry Christmas
to one and all.
A healthy, safe and
productive 2019.**







CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS EMBASSY OF GUYANA WASHINGTON DC

Photographs by Cornel Ferdinand



Another great night of the Guyanese diaspora coming together under the auspices of Ambassador Riyad Insanally and staff of the Guyana Embassy in Washington D.C. to this annual event to celebrate the Christmas holidays. Braving the rains to be there, a multitude of folks, which included members of the diplomatic community, including the recently returned American Ambassador to Guyana Perry Holloway, enjoyed great food (prepared by the 'Taste of the Caribbean' restaurant), music (provided by the 'Oasis/Island Sounds' band) and dancing. His Excellency, Ambassador Insanally, welcomed everyone, thanked some of the sponsors, whose contributions greatly enhanced the event and 'recognised' and 'awarded' a few for their 'invaluable support to the Embassy'. The evening ended with everyone having a great time and looking forward to next year's event.







CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS CONSULATE OF GUYANA NEW YORK



The Guyana Consulate held its annual Christmas party at the office in Manhattan on December 15, 2018. The party commenced at 18:00 hrs. with a thrill of Guyanese music, food and drinks. Several invitees were in attendance from the various missions, organizations, service providers and the Diaspora. Later in the evening Consul General, Hon. Barbara Atherly, offered brief remarks during which she took the opportunity to highlight the achievements and the many challenges faced by the Consulate throughout the year 2018.

She also took the opportunity to thank her staff and members of the Diaspora for their continued support to the Guyana Consulate.

During the Consular Saturday on the same day, members of the Diaspora were given an opportunity to record Christmas greetings to their family and friends back in Guyana which will be aired during the Christmas Holidays.



*Christmas comes but once a year
And everyone must join in and share
Only the poor prisoners in the jail
Drinking sour mauby and stale gingerbeer.*

Christmas Nostalgia

by Peter Halder

Growing up on Non Pareil Street, Albouystown, Georgetown in Guyana, Christmas was indeed the most wonderful time of the year. It was not just the greatest holiday but a season that lasted from Christmas Eve into the new year. It was hustle and bustle for moms and dads but for children, it was jolly, merry, festive with lots to eat and drink.

Two weeks before Christmas Day, a masquerade band began to tune up and practice in Padmore yard, near where we lived. Members of the band were from Plaisance village on East Coast Demerara.

The band consisted of 6 men. One played the Kettle Drum, one the Bass Drum, one the flute, one was a Flouncer, one was the Cowman and the last a Stilts dancer. They all brought their colourful costumes with frills, bells, two Stilts and a make believe cow frame.

The rehearsals began around 4.00 p.m. and lasted until 6.00 p.m. when it was still bright. One drummer tuned up his Kettle Drum while the other his Bass Drum.

A small fire wood was held some distance above the cow skin of both drums which made it easier to tighten or loosen, depending on the sounds from the drums beat.

Both drummers were satisfied. Practice time: the drummers began beating their drums, the flute player joined in and the flouncer did his thing. Someone would throw a copper penny (a jill in local parlance) on the ground and the flouncer would shake, rattle, roll and gyrate until he bent far enough to pick up the penny. The flouncer was the one who received collections...a cent(copper), a penny (copper), a bit (8 cents, silver) or a bit-and-a-half (12 cents, silver). I was there every afternoon to watch the rehearsals and I learned a thing or two.

The band did its final practice Christmas Eve and went masquerading on Christmas Day, Boxing Day (the day after) and continued until New Year's Day. The Stilt Dancer, wearing a flowered dress, had to have each stilt tied to his thighs while lower down was a place on each where he could rest the soles of his red and blue stockinged feet. A group of men had to hold him and the stilts and lift him carefully in the air until he could stand up straight and do his thing. Every now and then he would raise one of his two legs high in the air and dance on the other. That drew a lot of applause. The gaily and colorfully dressed Flouncer was the star of the show. The Cowman was gaudily dressed and wore around his waist a dried bamboo framework of a cow without legs and there were horns on the head which while dancing he ran after children as though he would butt (collide with) them. It brought shouts of "look-out" screams and laughter. During the performances, the Bass Drummer would stop beating his drum and burst out with a 'ditty' every now then:

Christmas comes but once a year
And everyone must join in and share
Only the poor prisoners in the jail
Drinking sour mauby and stale gingerbeer.

The masquerade band limited its performances to Albouystown, going along the two main streets, James Street and Sussex Streets which ran from East to West and some 12 cross streets that ran from Sussex Street to the Punt Trench, so named because the iron punts conveying sugar cane stalks from the farms to the sugar mill at La Penitence were pulled by mules along it.

The masquerade band collected as much as \$10 daily which was a lot of money at that time. Apart from money, band members were also offered slices of cake, ginger beer, mauby or pine drink in enamel cups. Liquor was forbidden.

Not to be outdone, I formed a group of four children and, using small pieces of stick to beat oval sardine-in-tomato sauce tins and Palm Tree salt butter cans, we did our own thing around the nearby area while singing carols. We collected about 24 cents each time not to mention feasting on slices of cake and gingerbeer/fruit drinks.



For the Season, my mother prepared round containers of cake batter with raisins and currants which I fetched on a covered tray to Mohammed bakery on Cooper Street for baking. Plait bread was also prepared and baked. A huge blue enamel pot was used to cook pepperpot, filled with beef and cowheel, on a fireside(chula). On Christmas morning, she invited tenants and neighbours for a slice of cake and pine drink each, at the same time conveying Christmas wishes. The multiracial community on Non Pareil Street at that time was close knit.

Yes indeed, Christmastime was the most wonderful time of the year and for us kids it was glory hallelujah, festive, filled with greetings and wishes, food and drink and gifts from our parents when they could afford it.

In Guyana everyone celebrates Christmas, irrespective of faith, be it Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, or any other.

by Vidur Dindayal



I was born and brought up in Guyana where everybody celebrated Christmas. We all looked forward to Christmas. Christmastime was the high point of the year. Whatever we did we made sure everything was best for Christmas.

Guyana's cosmopolitan community, a microcosm of the world with its rich mix of people from the four corners of the globe, its beautiful multi ethnicity and blends of cultures, all celebrate Christmas, irrespective of faith, be it Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, or any other.

At the Christmas table, I have prepared a place for a significant part of the Guyanese community, our fellow Indo Guyanese who are Christians. I pay a sincere tribute to them.

I bow my head in deep reverence to them all from Pomeroun to Crabwood Creek for being exemplars of devotion to their faith, excellent role models of living, achieving, and upholding noble values.

Christian Indo Guyanese family and close friends of my parents lived near to us when I was a child at Blairmont, in the late 30s. I looked up to them and the respect grew ever stronger when we moved to Rosignol in 1939 and to this day. I refer to Uncles and Aunties: Barker, Johnny Rampersaud, Collins, Parvattan, Lowton, Gopaul among others. Plus, my dad's friends at Albion since the 20s - Uncles Nar Singh and Teacher Latchmansingh.

To me they were the epitome of all the qualities of good people, upright, respectful, honourable, unassuming, dignified, helpful, good companions. Today, after over 70 years, I think back of very pleasant moments when the aunties and uncles would visit my parents and have sweet chats about life.

Every year there was a Children's Tea Party at Blairmont School organised by our Christian relations We looked forward to attending, especially to savouring the sandwiches. They were cut very neatly. It was hard to spoil the looks, but they did not last long.

The Church at Cotton Tree village was the place of worship of our Christian relations. When I was a child, my parents took me there for a special function. I learnt something. The elders sang the hymns to familiar tunes, but with a difference. The words were in Hindi.

Where did they come from originally. I learnt from an uncle in Georgetown that his father who was an indentured labourer was a Christian from Madras (now Chennai) in India. Madras then was also a recruitment centre and many of our ancestors recruited in that area were Christian. While some of our ancestors became Christian in Guyana, a good many were already Christian when they were recruited in India. Madras is one of the earliest seats of Christianity, believed to have been brought there by St. Thomas, one of the twelve apostles, in AD 52.

In my tribute I remember with great respect many Christian Indo Guyanese of my early days.

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Alfred Ramlochand, my English teacher at Berbice High School in late 1949, decided to start a new High School in New Amsterdam. I was one of his first 32 students when he launched Berbice Educational Institute, at Main and Pilot Streets. I was the only one in his nominal Fourth Form. In my report, the teacher wrote 'First' place. Of course being the only one I was first and last.

Nesbit Chhangur, the celebrated singer was one of the teachers at BEI. Indelibly printed in my memory is his beautiful singing playing the guitar. That was in 1950. I resumed contact recently for the book 'Guyanese Achievers USA & Canada'. He has had a very successful career in Ottawa. For me the name Nesbit Chhangur is music.

Peter Kempadoo, has been for decades, a passionate worker for rural communities in the UK, Guyana, the Caribbean and in Africa. He was the first Indo Guyanese I knew who wrote a book. He published his first novel, 'Guiana Boy' in 1960. It was exciting for me to see the book on display at Booker's store shopwindow in New Amsterdam. In his early years he was a teacher of Joe Solomon and Rohan Kanhai of cricketing fame, and a Radio broadcaster on 'Berbice Calling,' from New Amsterdam. In the 50s he was a journalist for UK newspapers, and a broadcaster on the BBC.

Ramdeholl Memorial Church in the grounds of Berbice High School always interested me when I was a student there and later a part time teacher. The Church was built and dedicated to the memory of Clara Ramdeholl, the daughter of New Amsterdam merchant. Clara was an iconic figure of triumph and tragedy. She graduated as a lawyer, the second Indo-Guyanese woman to do so. Returning to BG in 1940, on the ship 'Simon Bolivar', it was torpedoed by the Germans in the Atlantic. Clara did not survive, her body was not found.

Many schools in Guyana have been named in memory of prominent Christian Indo Guyanese. Latchmansingh Memorial School at Bushlot, West Coast Berbice is one of them.

Rev Pat Magalee and his brother Rev Hector Magalee were well known leaders of the Lutheran Church in New Amster-

dam in my youth. Their brother in law was Inspector of Schools Boodhoo who was a good friend of my parents.

Other Indo Guyanese of the Christian faith who have inspired me include, among others, Robert and Milton Ganpatsingh, Pharmacists of New Amsterdam; David Dharry of Rosehall, Corentyne, businessman who became a Barrister, The Hanomans, Ramroop and Lawyers Matadial and Hardyal.

I am indebted to Professor Clem Seecharan and Dwarka Nath, for information in their books below:

Clem's: 'Tiger in the Stars' –The Anatomy of Indian Achievement in British Guiana 1919-29, published by MacMillan Education Ltd., 1997 and 'Mother India's Shadow over Eldorado' –'Indo-Guyanese Politics and Identity' 1890s-1930s, ' Publisher: Ian Randle Publishers.Jamaica.2011.

Dwarka Nath's 'A History of Indians in Guyana' published by himself.

Prominent Christian Indo Guyanese in the books include: Lilian Das and husband who founded Pradasco Cycle store, in Georgetown in 1920; Gladys Ramsarran, in 1932 the first Indian woman in the West Indies to qualify as a lawyer; J.A. Veerasawmy one of the founders of the British Guiana East Indian Cricket Club; the Jaikarrans, with 4 Guyana Scholars in the family; JI Ramphal. Headteacher, Educator, Labour inspector, the first Indian to teach at Berbice High School; JA Luckhoo, the first Indian barrister in the colony, son, Sir JA, junior; EA, the first Indian solicitor in the colony; sons Sir Edward, and Sir Lionel; Sir Shridath Ramphal. Former Commonwealth Secretary General; Sir Harry Annamantado, MD. 1939 Guyana Scholar. Professor of Medicine at UWI.

Our Christian Indo Guyanese relations and friends have great traditions of dedication, devotion, and community service. They have set high standards of achievement in all walks of life. I salute them. I drink a toast to them and wish them and all fellow Guyanese and everyone else a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



16 GUYANESE GIRLS ROCK FOUNDATION



Young Women Leadership Academy



YOUTH IN FOCUS



It's an exciting time at Guyanese Girls Rock Foundation, Inc. as we prepare for Year two of our Young Women Leadership Academy (YWLA). On January 19, 2019 we will welcome the second class to the Academy. YWLA supports the development of young female leaders in the Guyanese community. Through a series of instructor- led lessons and workshops, high school girls of Guyanese heritage are given a unique opportunity to learn from and build trusting relationships with female professionals and mentors. Upon completing the program and graduating from high school, participants are eligible to apply for a merit or technology scholarship. This bi-weekly Saturday program is held at the state-of-the-art Teen Center at the Queens Central Library, and focuses on 3 key areas: building identity, developing self-confidence, and learning leadership skills.

Guyanese Girls Rock Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Queens, New York that is dedicated empowering Guyanese women and girls to create their own paths to success. At GGRF we believe in cultivating an environment where women and girls feel encouraged and supported to make a positive contribution in the world. To learn more about Guyanese Girls Rock Foundation, programs, or to apply for the leadership academy, please visit our website at www.guyanesegirlsrock.org. Application deadline is December 28, 2018.



Inspiring the Next Generation of Female Leaders!

Guyanese Girls Rock Foundation, Inc.

Guyanese Girls Rock Foundation is a New York based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated empowering young women to create their own paths to success by harnessing the power of leadership to ignite inspiration.



PROGRAM: YWLA 2019

The Guyanese Girls Rock Young Women Leadership Academy (YWLA) supports the development of young female leaders in the Guyanese community. Through a series of instructor led lessons and workshops, young women and girls are given a unique opportunity to learn from and build trusting relationships with female professionals and mentors. This free biweekly Saturday program focuses on 3 key areas: building identity, developing self-confidence, and learning leadership skills.



DATES

ORIENTATION: January 19th, 2019
CLASSES: January 26 - June 29, 2019

LOCATION

The Teen Center
Queens Central Library
89-11 Merrick Blvd, Jamaica, NY
Contact: YWLA@guyanesegirlsrock.org

APPLY TODAY

www.guyanesegirlsrock.org

Deadline: December 7, 2018



YOUTH IN FOCUS

Olympian Richard Jones added to Track and Field Staff

Welcome
Richard Jones
Assistant Coach

TRACK & FIELD™
SALUKI

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Southern Illinois University Director of Track and Field/Cross Country Rosalind Joseph has announced the addition of Olympian Richard Jones as an assistant coach. Jones represented his native country of Guyana at the 1996 Olympics in the 400-meter dash and 4x400-meter relay.

"I am excited for the addition of Coach Jones to our staff," Joseph said. "He has dedicated himself to every level of track and field, both as an athlete and as a coach, from youth league to an Olympian, so I know that he loves and knows the sport well. I've had the pleasure of knowing Coach Jones over the years and I see how he is able to connect with student-athletes of all event areas and get the best out of the athletes under his direction. I am confident in the job he will do here with our sprints and hurdle core. He has many connections in the sport, across the globe, and so I'm excited for his work in recruiting, coaching and mentoring the next batch of Saluki alumni."

Jones spent five seasons alongside Joseph at Ohio State University where he helped coach the Buckeyes' sprinters. During that time, his athletes won 15 Big 10 titles, earned 46 All-Big 10 accolades and he had 42 student-athletes qualify for national meets to name a few of his athletes' accomplishments.

While at OSU, Jones coached Nick Gray who qualified for the national meet eight times and earned four first-team All-America laurels under Jones' tutelage. In 2016, Gray became OSU's first first-team All-American in the indoor 200 since 1994.

"I am very excited to work with Coach Joseph and join her staff at Southern Illinois," Jones said. "I'm elated to be a part of a program that is very well known in the track and field community and to follow in the foot steps of many talented coaches. Coach Joseph and I have known each other since our days at Ohio State and this is a great opportunity

for both of us."

Prior to returning to his alma mater as an assistant coach, Jones spent 10 years as head coach at Bishop Hartley High School in Columbus, Ohio, where his teams rewrote the state Division II record books in all sprint events. Over a four-year stretch, Bishop Hartley's girls team was either state champion (2009, 2011) or state runners-up (2008, 2010). He coached 16 state champions, six high school All-Americans and helped 14 student-athletes to college level track programs. During the 2010 season, Bishop Hartley's girls 4x200 meter relay team won a national title in the event.

As a student-athlete at Ohio State, Jones was a seven-time Big Ten Champion and a four-time All-American, which included winning a national title as part of Ohio State's 4x400 outdoor relay team in 1993. A seven-time national qualifier, Jones went on to serve as captain of the 1996 Guyanese Olympic Team and competed in both 400-meter dash and 4x400-meter relay. Jones held the Guyanese national record in the 400-meter dash for nearly 18 years before Winston George broke it in 2014.

A 1996 graduate of Ohio State with a degree in telecommunications and electronic media, Jones and his fiancé Laticka share four children together.

"Ricky's parents are Richard and Dr. Cleoline Jones. Richard (Sr.) is an astute and well accomplished track and field athlete, who continues to participate competitively at the Masters level. They credit their son's achievement, not only to the Christian upbringing, but the discipline and values inculcated from the land on their birth - Guyana."



ARE YOU A CARIBBEAN IMMIGRANT?

Christiana Best, Ph.D, LMSW
Lear Matthews, D.S.W., LCSW

MICROAGGRESSION (INSULTS, INDIGNITIES, SLIGHTS) & THE CARIBBEAN DIASPORA RESEARCH STUDY

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE:

18 years or older
First-generation (Afro/Indo) Caribbean immigrants
Permanent residents or U.S. Citizens

We would like to hear your experiences!

To become a participant in this study please contact:

Christiana Best
bstwshs153@gmail.com

or

Lear Matthews
lear.matthews@gmail.com



HENRY MUTTOO
**Moon On A
 Rainbow
 Shawl**

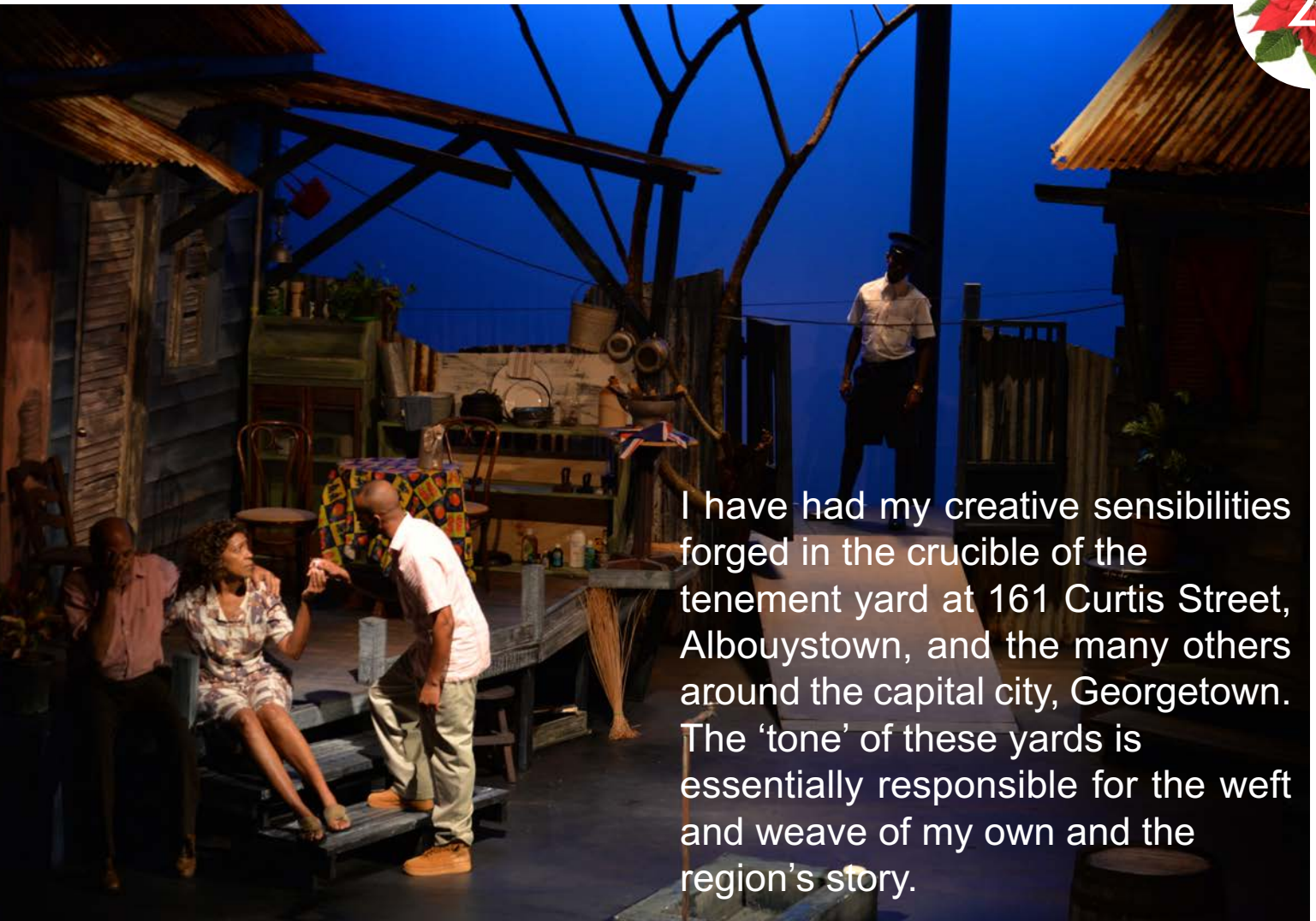
“The true story of the West Indian artist for the past generation is a record of the anguished attempts to make our landscape symbolically significant.”

John Hearne
 The Artist In West Indian Society - 1962

Today, more than half a century after Hearne’s insightful assertion, our artists’ anguish has not diminished, and our true story remains the same – to interrogate the trajectory of regional development from colonialism, through the indignities of slavery and indenture, to nations struggling to define themselves.

As an artist, that anguish is part of my inheritance. It has elicited in me a compelling need to engage with and create inspiring works that are my own representations of the region’s range of personal, domestic and global concerns. What better work to show, then, than Errol John’s timeless masterpiece, *Moon On A Rainbow Shawl*, which draws on themes that reverberate in the oeuvre of all great regional artists. Like the majority of them – writers, painters, musicians, actors and dancers – I have had my creative sensibilities forged in the crucible of the tenement yard at 161 Curtis Street, Albouystown, and the many others around the capital city, Georgetown. The ‘tone’ of these yards is essentially responsible for the weft and weave of my own and the region’s story. It is this familiarity, which drew me into the ‘yard’ of the play – a cauldron of the working-class of society; a Gayelle, a battle-ready space where the hurt of man’s inhumanity to man is most palpably lived – and ribald contestations for the means of survival – food, love, space, respect, acceptance and dignity – are the results of systemic poverty, injustice and denigration.





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Within this muck; this squalor of ribaldry and decaying corrugated metal, which imprisons its occupants and elicits neusa and fear, Errol John carefully excavates real people. Through them he tells a story of coalescence; a story of people trapped under the detritus of a society full of con-men and Charlatans. More than this, the play is a story of genuine love and caring, callousness, compromise and heroism that, literally, reduces one to tears.

The focus of this production was two-fold:

1: To use 'yard contestations', to provide the propulsion for locating Dramatic Action and 'pointing' John's narrative toward the transformative process of coalescence in the work.

2: To identify and underscore the playwright's intentions that, each character has redeeming qualities:

-Mavis is a 'Mako' and a prostitute but her work is honest. She needs, and is capable of receiving and giving love.

-Princes is the stereotype Calypsonian – a womanizer, a good-time guy, and chauvinistic but is capable of seeing the goodness in Mavis; enough to engage and want to marry her.

-Ephrain is selfish, callous and cynical but he is a 'seeker' an adventurer who wants to grab the future rather than remain in the certitude of a woman he knows he loves.

-Sophia is querulous and a hard-taskmaster but she is a selfless, hard-working, kind and loving person, capable of heroic deeds.

-Charlie is a broken, depressed man, who would steal to help his daughter achieve the dream of a good education. He is not the lazy, good-for-nothing lay-about, Sophia describes.

-Old Mac is rich but he is a lonely man who wants to be loved.



PREPARING FOR SOCIETAL TRANSITION:

THE ROLE OF DIASPORA HOMETOWN ASSOCIATIONS

By Dr. Lear Matthews

**WE
GOT
OIL!**

PART 2



In the effort to manage the incipient influx of petro-dollars, stakeholders must be wary of the concomitant socio-economic and psychological pitfalls.

There are both opportunities and risks in any socio-economic transition. If Hometown Associations are to be engaged as one of the arbiters of development transformation, they must utilize culturally competent interventions helping to motivate local communities and to comprehend the realities of impending changes. In this regard, working cooperatively with local non-profit organizations and governmental institutions is essential, with the understanding that effective collaboration is predicated on trust. Expectations related to organizational behavior and consumer habits within the context of Diaspora /local relationship, have been areas of potential conflict. This is noteworthy as HTAs attempt to contribute to the development of local communities.

Aspects of Diaspora engagement are often viewed as challenging local beliefs, customs, and practices, causing tension. In a statement about the role of Diaspora organizations, President Granger urged, “when they (HTAs) want to send a petition next time, ask them to petition for a permit to open a factory or a farm.” In the past, government officials have reached out for help from HTAs seemingly only right before national elections, a situation which has caused resentment.

There is a lack of trust that exists between the government, civil society and the Diaspora. One critical observer notes that it appears as though the gravity of tensions can only be overcome when the home country establishes clear policy with concrete objectives on optimizing the involvement of the Diaspora.

Economist Jay Mandle raises pertinent questions regarding the nation's readiness for the impending changes that are likely to occur as a result of the discovery of oil in Guyana. He argues that not only will there be challenges with the changing technology and environmental issues, but the nation will be at a disadvantage in addressing these changes because much of the human capital necessary to cope successfully with them exists outside of the country. The emigration rate of highly skilled people, particularly those with “the educational and technical skills the country needs in order to provide high-level services to a technologically sophisticated industry like petroleum” is the highest in the world. Revenue gathered should be used to enlist the services of highly educated members of the Guyanese diaspora to diversify Guyana's economy and later its pattern of residence. Similarly, Munro noted that “the country will be faced with geological, technical and managerial challenges. Guyanese and Caribbean Diaspora personnel could assist in the management and exploration of natural gas that can provide cleaner electricity in Guyana by lending their expertise and skills”.

HTAs can be instrumental in helping to fill part of the human resource vacuum. Effectively articulating the desire for, and facilitating Diaspora resources and building productive transnational alliances have been problematic. Guyanese-born business consultant, Cosford Roberts suggests that the Diaspora should be regarded as a full participant in the formulation of policies and delivery of professional services. The Diaspora, because of its large size, continuous place attachment and emotional/identity connection to the home country, is viewed by some change advocates as a stakeholder in the national development efforts of Guyana. Of significance is the creation of opportunities for multiple Diaspora groups, regardless of ethnicity or political affiliation, to harness their resources for development in a changing home country environment. HTAs have contributed to pockets of development through the sending of remittances, but have the potential to make a more impactful imprint on sustainable development.



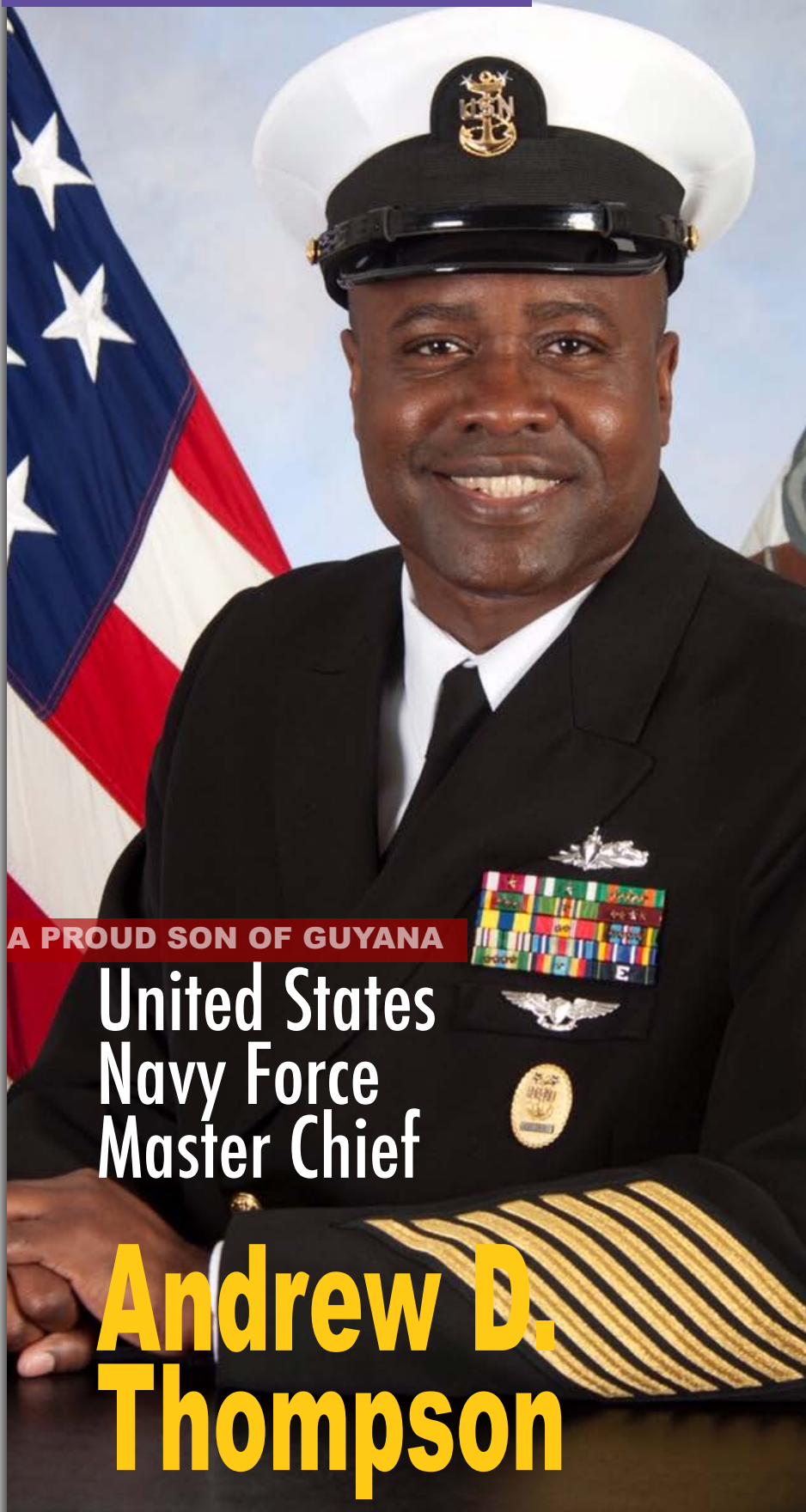
Mandle further notes that members of the Diaspora can do more, rather than confine themselves to supplying remittances to the country. To have a transformative impact, they should act as (individual/ company) investors, mentors, and political actors, taking advantage of the opportunities that emerge for firms to become domestic sources of supply to the petroleum sector. Although HTAs can be a vanguard in this proposition, their support for other enterprises that have been the pillars of the nations' economic base (i.e. rice, sugar and timber industries) should not be sacrificed nor neglected. Reflecting on the prioritizing of spending petro dollars, roads, water and electricity are paramount. HTA members with techno-management experience can contribute to an oversight Petro-Fund Committee spearheaded by local administrators. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its Diaspora Engagement Unit along with the planned Diaspora Engagement Center, must play a major role in establishing a meaningful engagement process. HTAs can contribute to energy efficiency programs related to cost savings and extend their medical services to oil industry personnel. They can also promote effective Diaspora engagement through capacity building and social entrepreneurship.

In the effort to manage the incipient influx of petro-dollars, stakeholders must be wary of the concomitant socio-economic and psychological pitfalls. Lessons of success and failure can be learned from the experience of other developing

countries. It is also important to note that benefits will be stymied by inept and insufficient preparation, including failure to identify hidden costs. Attachment to the homeland may have been reignited by reverse push factors (anti-immigrant rhetoric/policy) and 'gushing' pull factors (prospects of petro wealth) and viewing this moment as an opportunity to re-migrate or reconnect in various ways. Ultimately, Guyanese in and outside the country must exercise due diligence to spend this imminent windfall wisely turning impoverishment into prosperity. This is the opportune time for those in the home country and the Diaspora to use their social capital to engage through networks, norms and mutual trust that would enable them to work together more effectively to pursue shared objectives. Implicit in this paradigm is a clarion call, not only for a decrease of the tensions between the Diaspora and the home country (including government and civil society), but to bridge the ethnic divide around a common cause. It has been a long, brutal journey from slavery, indentureship, colonialism to post-independence struggles. We Got Oil!



FOCUS ON VETERANS



A PROUD SON OF GUYANA

United States
Navy Force
Master Chief

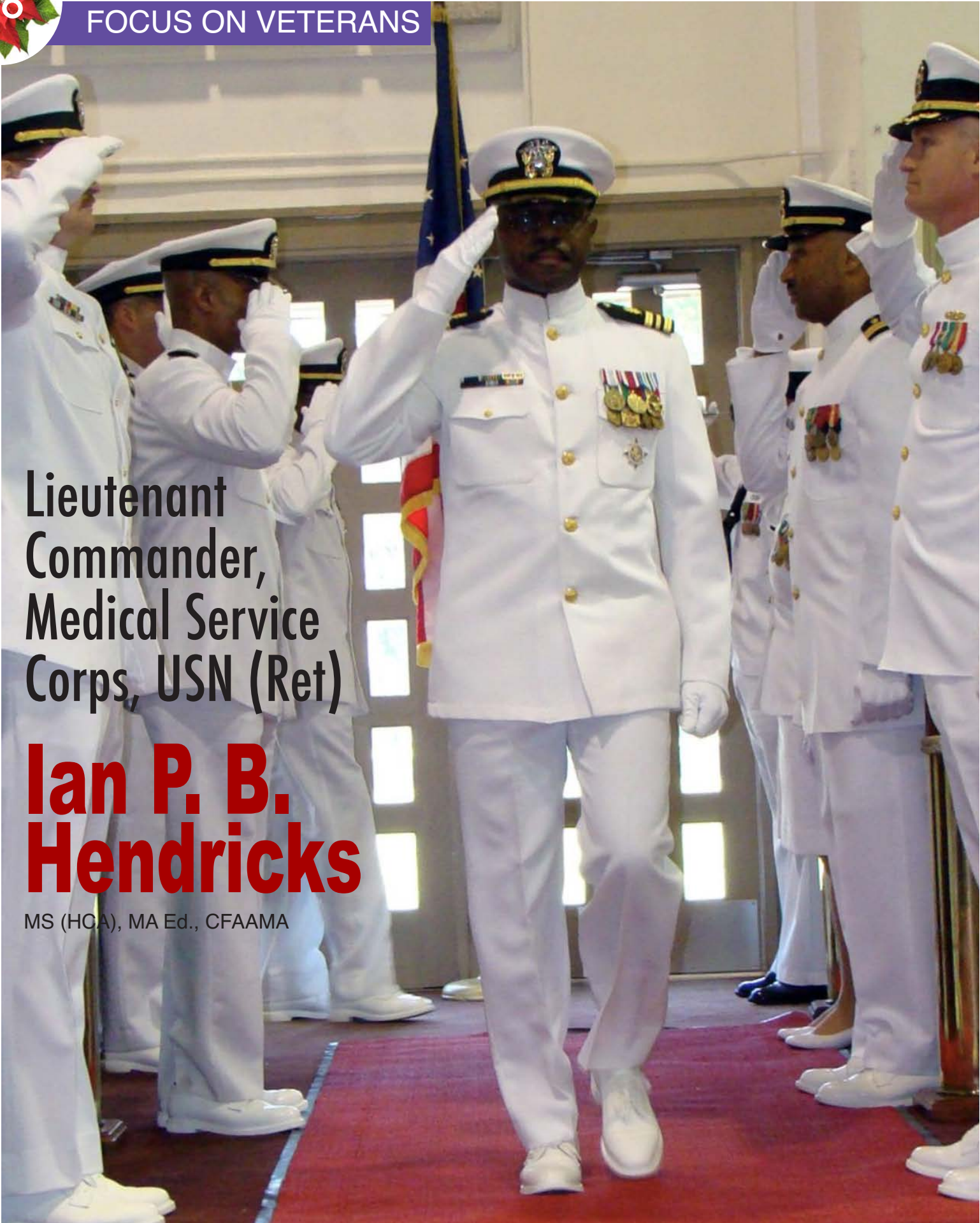
Andrew D.
Thompson

As we celebrated Veterans' Month in November, we are reminded of the many former members of the Guyana Defense Force, who reside in North America. The brave efforts of rank and file corpsmen and officers who gallantly served to protect our dear land of Guyana deserve our praise and appreciation. However, more should be done to assist our veterans at home.

It is also important to acknowledge the long standing contribution of Caribbean immigrants, men and women, to the United States military. Exemplifying such a contribution is Force Master Chief Andrew Desmond Thompson who was born in Guyana. He joined the United States Navy on February 22, 1984 and completed recruitment and apprenticeship training in Great Lakes, Illinois. He reported to his first ship, the USS Coral Sea, known as "The Ageless Warrior", homeport in Portsmouth Virginia in June 1984. His next tour of duty was on the USS Saratoga, where he served with his younger brother from 1988 to 1990.

His subsequent sea and shore assignments included Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity in Norfolk, 1990-1993; USS Sylvania and Shore Maintenance Activity Little Creek, 1993-1994 ; USS Theodore Roosevelt 1995-1998; Naval Brig. Norfolk 1998-2001; USS Fort Mc Henry, 2007-2010; Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, 2013-2015; Master Chief Thompson reported to Commander, Navy Installations Command as the Force Master Chief in May 2015 and served in that capacity until May 2018. His military and civilian education Air Condition and refrigeration technology, Corrections Officer training, and Shipboard Engineering. He is a graduate of the Senior Enlisted Academy Class 109 Gold Group, the Command Master Chief Boat Course and earned an Associate's degree from Saint Leo's University. Master Thompson is also a graduate of Keystone Command Senior Enlisted Leader Course in joint and combined studies at the National Defense University. His personal awards include: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Naval and Marine Corp Commendation Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and other unit and service awards.

Andrew retired in 2017. This native son of Guyana, whose proud parents, Jean and Calvin Thompson, recently reminisced about the joys and tribulations of Andrew's career, noting his unwavering determination, traditional values, perseverance and principled decorum as the driving forces in his success.



Lieutenant
Commander,
Medical Service
Corps, USN (Ret)

Ian P. B. Hendricks

MS (HQA), MA Ed., CFAAMA



In 1991 as a junior grade Lieutenant, he became the first medical department officer and the most junior recipient of the Dorie Miller Award, the highest award presented by the National Naval Officers' Association (NNOA) for leadership and professionalism in the sea services.

Ian P.B. Hendricks was born in Georgetown, Guyana, South America. He graduated from Christ Church Secondary School and after serving as a pupil teacher in Georgetown, migrated to the United States. He enlisted in the US Navy and completed Basic Training and Hospital Corps (Medic) School at Great Lakes, Illinois. He then served as a Pediatric and Orthopedic Corpsman at the Naval Regional Medical Center Great Lakes, IL

He later attended and successfully completed the Navy's Surgical Technology program at the Naval School of Health Sciences (NSHS) Bethesda Maryland, where he graduated first in his class. He was then assigned to the Main Operating Theater at the Naval Regional Medical Center, Long Beach, California. During this assignment, he completed a successful Western Pacific Ocean deployment aboard the San Diego-based Amphibious Assault Ship USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11), as a member of Fleet Surgical Team Two (FST-2).

In March 1985, Ian was accepted to the Navy's Transplantation Technology Program and again, he graduated first in his class.

Upon graduation, he was nominated and subsequently selected to serve on the faculty of NSHS. From April 1985 to July 1987, he served as the Senior Didactic and Clinical Instructor for the Navy's Transplantation Technology Program specializing in human anatomy and physiology, human cadaver organ procurement and the immunology of transplanted organ rejection. Additionally Ian was part of the Naval Medical Research Institute's team conducting studies on the effect of toxic shock syndrome experienced by US military personnel wounded in combat. In August 1987, he was appointed Academic Counselor for the Technical Training Department, at NSHS Bethesda, MD. In June 1988, Ian received a commission in the Navy's Medical Service Corps where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

During his career, Commander Hendricks served in a variety of leadership, training and managerial positions both ashore and in an operational capacity at sea. He was Head, Medical Division, on the Amphibious Assault Ship USS NASSAU (LHA 4) Norfolk, VA, completing a successful Mediterranean deployment; Education & Training Officer, Naval Medical Clinics Command Headquarters, Washington, DC; Assistant Director, Health Services and Head of Medical Programs, Readiness Command Region Six, Washington, DC; Executive Assistant (EA) to the Deputy Surgeon General, Navy Bureau of Medicine & Surgery; Director, Naval Medical Clinic Lakehurst, NJ; and during the Iraqi war, he was the first active duty Naval Medical Department officer to deploy as Director of the Joint Patient Movement Requirements Center, an international medical team in Southwest Asia with direct responsibility for medical triage and evacuation of all casualties in support of OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM AND IRAQI FREEDOM.

Notably, in 1991 as a junior grade Lieutenant, he became the first medical department officer and the most junior recipient of the Dorie Miller Award, the highest award presented by the National Naval Officers' Association (NNOA) for leadership and professionalism in the sea services. In 1998, he became only the second repeat winner of this award in the NNOA's forty-six year history. He is the founder and coordinator of the Scholars Tutorial and Mentoring Program (STAMP), an outreach initiative aimed at improving academic achievement among minority youth in the Washington DC area. A regular speaker at Elementary, Junior and senior high schools, he has authored feature articles for the Bethesda Journal and is the 1996 Toastmasters International District champion for the National Capital Region. Commander Ian P.B. Hendricks a proud son of Guyana is currently a science education instructor in Illinois.

George K. Danns ■ Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith ■ Fitzgerald Yaw

Dynamics of Caribbean Diaspora Engagement

People • Policy • Practice

The Caribbean nation-building project was conceived within a development discourse that sought to eliminate political boundaries that kept citizens apart. It has not fulfilled its potential....Our editors, Danns, Griffith and Yaw have given us a text that serves as the manifesto for the mission.

Professor Hilary Beckles
Vice-Chancellor, University of the West Indies

...indispensable reading, integral to building engagement and charting a course towards a brighter and more inclusive future.

Riyad Insanally
Guyana Ambassador to the USA, Permanent Representative to the OAS

The Caribbean Diaspora is recognized as an untapped yet critical resource component in regional development. Described by the World Bank as “a sizeable, well-educated, and affluent demographic whose large majority is interested in investing in its countries of origin”, the Caribbean Diaspora has the potential to transform the Caribbean.

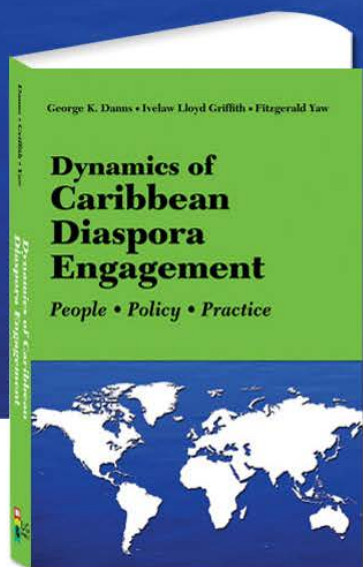
In *Dynamics of Caribbean Diaspora Engagement*, editors George K. Danns, Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, and Fitzgerald Yaw bring together contributions from over 30 authors representing government and NGOs, private and public sector interests, diplomats, entrepreneurs, investors, consultants and academics from a range of disciplines. Building on The University of Guyana’s Disapora Engagement conference held in 2017, this groundbreaking volume highlights the multidimensional points of diaspora engagement and commences the conversation towards a systematic and structured approach to harnessing all the Diaspora has to offer.

Divided into seven sections covering economics, culture, migration, politics and development, scholarly perspectives as well as the lived experiences of the Caribbean Diaspora are explored and analysed to determine the direction of diaspora engagement enhancement.

George K. Danns is a Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Human Services, University of North Georgia, Gainesville, GA, USA.

Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith is the Vice Chancellor and Principal of The University of Guyana.

Fitzgerald Yaw is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at The University of Guyana.



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