EXCITING STAGE SHOW FOR FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY

SHOWTIME
4.00 P.M. SHARP

MUSIC
DANCE DRAMA
SEEKING COMMON GROUND

August is a very special month in Guyana and in the British Caribbean. August is Emancipation month. August 1 or Freedom Day in Guyana helps us to remember the 84,075 freed Africans in Guyana for whom 2761 British slave owners received the lofty sum of £4.21 million which in today’s equivalency is £3.13 billion.

For us in Guyana, August should be the time we celebrate our Guyanese-ness. Whether we were here as Indigenous Peoples long before Columbus came to these parts, or whether we came in ships from Europe, Africa, Madiera (Portuguese), India or China……we need to recognise our common destiny.

Next May 26 will be the 50th Anniversary of our Independence. Are we up to this task of “destiny building?” Are we up to the task of “family building?” Of “nation building?” Will we be found as a United Nation or will we be a fragmented society….a society of the un-free. Un-emancipated.

On August 28, 1963, at the foot of the towering memorial to Abraham Lincoln who has signed the Emancipation Proclamation 100 years earlier, the immortal 34-year-old Martin Luther King Jr. passionately and eloquently shared his ‘Dream’. Preaching powerfully, he stirred the moral conscience of millions, tapping into core values and yearnings of humanity, speaking prophetically about living life without hatred and violence, inviting his audience to the many mountaintops of life, imagining and sharing new perspectives and a common vision.

May 11 this year has given us a new beginning. What will we do with this chance for Renewal? This opportunity for Rebirth.

Guyanese at home and in the Diaspora need to seek common ground…..seek it through culture; through embracing each other as we daily do in our villages, schools, work places and religious institutions..

August was the month that made Guyana a Nation of Six Peoples. We should all commit to using every August to continue the journey of seeking our common identity, our common future, our common destiny.

The glue to making this happen is our culture. Our separate and combined cultures that make us unique.

The Guyana Cultural Association has for years now been a beacon of hope in our quest for “nation building”. They have led the way.

Will we follow them in the path of Martin Luther King Jr.

Eric Phillips
August Guest Editor
We are the kids of GCA!

GCA SUMMER HERITAGE WORKSHOP SERIES

WE CAME TO LEARN AND PLAY AND GROW
WE WANT TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE
FROM SINGING SONGS TO PLAYING GAMES
HAVING FUN ALL THROUGH THE DAY
WE WANT TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

GCA Summer Heritage Summer Workshop Series Song
composed by Jowell Jaggon
It started in December 2012 with the symposium “Masquerade Lives” in Guyana. Since then, the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. (GCA) has been in a partnership with Guyana’s Department of Culture, Youth, and Sport and other stakeholders in Guyana, to develop and execute an initiative to revitalize Guyana’s masquerade culture. The initiative will culminate with “Masquerade Jamboree,” scheduled for December 2016 in Guyana—the 50th anniversary Christmas.

One of the events of the December 2012 Masquerade Lives symposium was the inaugural masquerade flounce off in Victoria. Masquerade troupes from the East Coast Demerara, West Bank Demerara, Linden, and the Essequibo Coast participated. They showed passion, interethnic solidarity, and innovation in the face of many common challenges with music, equipment, costing, and sponsorship. For example, at the 2012 event there were only two flautists—Rudolph “Putagee” Vivierios from Plaisance and Jerome Cumberbatch from Linden. Among the participants in the flounce off was Teacher Raghu’s tassa band from Enmore. The spontaneous jam session that followed the flounce off seems to have triggered a new and exciting musical exchange—fusion—in Guyanese musical life. Also part of the symposium was the premiere of Derry Etkins’ Masquerade Sweet Suite, an original musical composition based on Guyana folk songs and inspired by masquerade music.

Since the symposium, the GCA-Department of Culture, Youth, and Sport partnership has intensified its work. National School of Dance director Linda Griffith and Andrea Mentore have been mapping the presence of the masquerade art form in Guyana. They have continued to organize the annual flounce off as part of the annual Mashramani celebrations. In 2015, the flounce off was held on the Essequibo Coast. Linda Griffith produced, with UNESCO support, a DVD on the core dances of Guyanese masquerade tradition.

The GCA-Department of Culture, Youth, and Sport partnership has emphasized training as a strategy for revitalizing masquerade. In 2013, masquerade dance became an element in the curriculum of the annual summer Caribbean Heritage Workshop Series organized by GCA for Guyanese and Caribbean youth in Brooklyn. In 2014, the partnership organized workshops in masquerade music and costume design in Georgetown, Guyana.
From GCA 2015 Summer Heritage Workshops Series. Photograph by Carl A. Hazelwood.
Students and faculty from the 2015 workshops, along with the Haitian troupe La Troupe Zetwal, performed in Folk Feet in the Street, a partnership with the Brooklyn Arts Council.

Derry Etkins, a Guyanese music educator resident in the British Virgin Islands, has continued to explore the musical exchange demonstrated during the 2012 symposium. In 2014, he organized a jam session with the Georgetown Jazz Project. In early August 2105, he organized a jam session with a big band featuring woodwind musicians from the bands of the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Defence Force.

The images, sounds, and reports about Guyana’s contingent at Carifesta XII in Haiti are positive. The participants are happy to share their creativity with the wider Caribbean family. The masquerade/tassa soundtrack from Ruel Johnson and Kerry Woolford Facebook video of the Guyanese delegation during the opening ceremony parade is a reaffirmation of the fusion that happened during the inaugural flounce off at Victoria in 2012.

We congratulate Guyana’s masquerade tassa crew: Jerome Cumberbatch (Torch Masquerade Band, Linden), Trevor Blackett (Golden Arrowhead Masquerade Band), Raphael Waldron (Fire in the Land/Wild Adventure), Mark Cyrus (National School of Dance), Keon Warren (Victoria), Rajesh Dubraj (baydum and jhaal), and Govinda Ramkissoon (tassa).

Masquerade in recent times...
© Vibert C. Cambridge, Ph.D.
Masquerade has shown resilience as it has struggled to earn the respect due an art form. Despite the many vicissitudes, masquerade has nourished community building, supported inter-ethnic exchanges, and influenced other streams of Guyanese creativity. Victor Davson’s paintings in the Bad Cow Coming series (1999), Derry Etkins’ Masquerade Sweet Suite, and Dr. Paloma Mohamed’s Toasts, Boasts, and Memory: A Preliminary Look at the Lyric Traditions of Guyanese Masquerade are examples.

We hope that the masquerade crew that attended Carifesta XII in Haiti will be in Brooklyn for the Folk Festival 2015 season. Their visit will not only enrich our signature events (Awards Ceremony, Kwe Kwe Night, Literary Hang, and Family Fun Day), but it will provide a needed opportunity for the diaspora and the homeland to participate in creative encounters and interactions that encourage innovation.
SEASON 2015 GUYANA

FOLK FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING GUYANA’S CULTURAL HERITAGE

We Bridgin’

GCA AWARDS
WED., SEPTEMBER 2 - 6.00 P.M.,
Brooklyn Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
BY INVITATION ONLY

LITERARY HANG
SAT., SEPTEMBER 5 -11.00 A.M.
St. John’s Episcopal Church Auditorium
139 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217

BOOK LAUNCH
“MUSICAL LIFE IN GUYANA” by Dr. Vibert Cambridge
AN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION
SAT., SEPTEMBER 5 -3.00 P.M.
St. John’s Episcopal Church Auditorium
139 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217

FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY
SUN., SEPTEMBER 6
12 NOON - 7 P.M.
SHOWTIME 4 P.M.
Old Boys High School Grounds
736 Rutland Road & Troy Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203
ADMISSION: ADULTS $10. (Seniors, Kids under 16) - FREE

KWE KWE NITE
FRI., SEPTEMBER 4 - 8 P.M.
St. Stephen’s Church Hall
2806 Newkirk Ave. (E28 - E29 Sts.) Brooklyn, NY 11226
ADMISSION: $20.00

SYMPOSIUM
SAT. NOVEMBER 7, 2015
9.00 A.M.-3.00 P.M.
SUNY/Empire State College, Brooklyn, New York
177 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

COMING SOON TO BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
GCA “GUYANA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER”

Website: www.guyfolkfest.org    TEL: 800-774-5762

This activity is not sponsored or endorsed by the New York City Department of Education or the City of New York

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine
GCA SUMMER HERITAGE WORKSHOP WRAP-UP

by Carlyle Harry
Director, GCA Summer Heritage Workshop Series

On the afternoon of Thursday August 13th, the Guyana Cultural Association closed out its seventh annual Caribbean Heritage Summer Workshop Series.

The six-week Workshop which lasted from July 6th to August 13th catered to children between five and twelve years of age.

The six-week program was conducted in the auditorium of the St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Newkirk Avenue in Brooklyn, New York.
Knowledge and skills were relayed to the students in the following subject areas: musical theory and singing; dance and choreography; the growth and development of literacy skills; the preparation of simple meals; social-media technologies; Art and crafts; playing steel-pans; poetry and play-writing tips; and guidance on drama performances and recitals.

Among resource persons who served as facilitators for the Workshops were Dr. Moses Telsford; Dr. Lear Matthews; Messrs. Edgar Henry; Keith Proctor; Hilton Hemmerding; Wayne Collins; Charles Liverpool; Wayne Daniels; Reuben Freeman; Boysie Bishop, Yaphet Jackman; Ms. Claire Goring; Ms. Verna Walcott; Ms. Rose October; Ms. Donna Walcott, “M” Griffith, Ms. Claudette Howell, RN, was the Workshop Series nurse.

As part of the closing ceremonial activities, an exhibition was mounted in order to display the arts and crafts that were done by the children. A special edition Newsletter featuring articles, poems, artworks, pictures of outstanding participants was also distributed during the closing ceremony. In addressing the audience, both the Vice-President, Ms. Ave Brewster-Haynes and Assistant Treasurer Mr. Edgar Henry of the Guyana Cultural Association encouraged the graduates to seek avenues to build on the cultural knowledge, skills and techniques which they gained during the six-week Workshop series.

The executives also thanked the parents of the children and sponsors for continuing to support the annual Workshop program.

_Emanuel, Henry and Goring_

_“once more had the children bridgin’_
_
_with their mixing and meddling,
their singing and dancing,
their drawing and cooking,
their reciting and performing
and their reading and writing._

_It was GCA’s seventh workshop for children five years and UP._
Celebrating our Guyanese heritage is an acknowledgement of its influence on our present condition. Its attributes can be discerned in the trajectory from the past. We can map where we are, what we are doing, and envisage a future, or not. These elements are profoundly visible in the profiles of the 2015 GCA Awardees. In them, we recognize the creative gifts of individuals and influencers in a showcase of literary, performing and visual artistes along with community activists and cultural enablers. They present a panoply of creativity evoking distinct Guyanese sensitivities. Their individual craftsmanship is physical and intellectual. Concepts are transformed into impactful reality. The substance of their contributions to society is evident by notable accomplishments.

The Youth Honorees represent stage and movie acting and award winning youth leadership; fashion designing and choreography “intertwined”; dramatist; Maypole dancing; and academic excellence, authorship and community service.. These four progeny give every indication of very bright lives ahead.

The millennial and the mature Honorees display a cumulative, encyclopedic level of work. Video-performance is story telling that expresses personal and community feelings; communal leadership enables effective education and increases village pride; dance and choreography are taught based on modern techniques and music influences including Jazz and Caribbean genre; arts journalism is presented from a balanced, independent stance on the arts and literature giving voice to the underrepresented; sculpting creativity is demonstrated through ancestral images and present-day metaphors; photographic visual artistry is used as a bridge to connect cultural identity; sensitivity to dissimilar musical ambiance in a shared space enabled a collaboration for mutual inter-ethnic satisfaction.

Noel Denny, Exemplary Awardee has demonstrated visionary leadership and action by forging consensus with fellow Guyanese from five High School Alumni organizations. Active in various Toronto Caribbean groups he was motivated to support homeland schools, too. “This gave rise to the Last Lap concept” explains Mr. Denny. The Lime has become a desired destination for celebrating Guyana’s traditions as envisioned by culturalist Noel Denny. It is perhaps the largest such event of Guyanese diversity.

Ron Robinson is the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. He has the unique distinction of serving more years in Guyanese broadcasting and theatre than anyone else: half a century, unmatched and counting. He is an actor, a writer, a producer and a director. Mr. Robinson is a performing artiste who is a talker and a doer extraordinaire. Ron Robinson has pursued and lived his interests. His multi-faceted life is revelatory as I describe his accomplishments in the profile. He is a Mason – a lodge man; a scout master; a racing car driver; a youth organization leader; and an independent businessman. His successes in these areas add to his distinction as an arts and culture man whose imprint is much greater than his unassuming demeanor conveys.

Our Awards Committee is honored to have played a role in recognizing this illustrious group.
2015 FOLK FESTIVAL SEASON: ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 GCA HONOREES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Ron Robinson

EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT
Noel Denny

GCA AWARD
Damali Abrams

GCA AWARD
Lorna P. Campbell

GCA AWARD
Ameena Gafoor

GCA AWARD
Nadia Jagan

GCA AWARD
Jonathan Locke

GCA AWARD
Deo Persaud

GCA AWARD
Keisha Scarville

GCA AWARD
Main Street Art Group

BUSINESS ENABLER
Star Party Rental

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
2015 GCA YOUTH HONOREES

CELEBRATING GUYANESE YOUTH WHO
HAVE MADE ACHIEVEMENT AND POSITIVE
LEADERSHIP THEIR CENTRAL GOAL

The GCA Awards salute the contributions by youth and especially, we acknowledge individuals from Guyana who enrich their communities and Guyanese society.

YOUTH AWARD
Abigail Brower

YOUTH AWARD
Mwanza Mainza Glenn

YOUTH AWARD
Anna Lee Willabus

YOUTH AWARD
St. Albans Episcopal Church - Guyana Rally of the Nations (Maypole)
The Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism, administered by the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc., was established in 2011. It is inspired by Godfrey Chin’s indefatigable efforts to study and to celebrate Guyana’s rich cultural heritage and creativity. The prize has been established to encourage and to reward writers whose published works promote understanding and appreciation of the diverse strands of Guyanese heritage and contribute to celebrating the commonalities that connect the people of Guyana.

The prize is awarded to the entry that best embodies the spirit, intellect and wit of Godfrey Chin, as well as the core values that GCA considers when determining awards—originality, scope, impact/influence, contribution to harmony, innovation, and creative responses to challenges.

In 2015, through the generous support of the Chin family, $500.00 will be awarded to the first prize winner, $300.00 to the second prize winner and $200.00 to the third prize winners.
Congratulations to Vidyaratha Kissoon, Dr. Maya Trotz, Akima McPherson and Stanley Greaves—the 2015 awardees of Godfrey Chin Prizes for Heritage Journalism. This year’s awardees have used social media, oral histories, and a newspaper column to engage Guyanese at home and in the diaspora in conversations that help us to better understand who we are, how we live together, and what we can become. This year’s first prize was awarded to Vidyaratha Kissoon for his blog “Thoughts of a minibus traveler.” Dr. Maya Trotz was awarded second prize for the series of videos on Guyana’s science and technology heritage, featuring her father Dr. Ulric Trotz, a pioneering director at Guyana’s Institute of Science and Technology during the 1970s and 1980s. Akima McPherson and Stanley Greaves were awarded third prize for the Stabroek News series “Conversations on Art.”

The body of work of Vidyaratha Kissoon, Dr. Maya Trotz, Akima McPherson and Stanley Greaves embody the spirit, intellect, and wit of Godfrey Chin, as well as GCA’s core values in determining awards—originality, scope, impact/influence, contribution to harmony, innovation, and creative responses to challenges.

Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism Committee
August 14, 2015
LITERARY HANG
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 5 -11.00 A.M.
ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH UNDERCROFT
139 ST. JOHN’S PLACE, BROOKLYN, NY 11217
BOOK LAUNCH OF
“Musical Life in Guyana”
by Dr. Vibert Cambridge
AN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION -3.00 P.M.
Website: www.guyfolkfest.org
TEL: 800-774-5762
2015 GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
Musical Life in Guyana is the first in-depth study of Guyanese musical life. It is also a richly detailed description of the social, economic, and political conditions that have encouraged and sometimes discouraged musical and cultural creativity in Guyana. The book contributes to the study of the interactions between the policies and practices by national governments and musical communities in the Caribbean.

Vibert C. Cambridge explores these interactions in Guyana during the three political eras that the society experienced as it moved from being a British colony to an independent nation. The first era to be considered is the period of mature colonial governance, guided by the dictates of "new imperialism," which extended from 1900 to 1953. The second era, the period of internal self-government and the preparation for independence, extends from 1953, the year of the first general elections under universal adult suffrage, to 1966, the year when the colony gained its political independence. The third phase, 1966 to 2000, describes the early postcolonial era.

Cambridge reveals how the issues of race, class, gender, and ideology deeply influenced who in Guyanese multicultural society obtained access to musical instruction and media outlets and thus who received recognition. He also describes the close connections between Guyanese musicians and Caribbean artists from throughout the region and traces the exodus of Guyanese musicians to the great cities of the world, a theme often neglected in Caribbean studies. The book concludes that the practices of governance across the twentieth century exerted disproportionate influence in the creation, production, distribution, and consumption of music.
GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL 2015

COME TO MY KWE-KWE

WE SHALL HAVE A FINE TIME, ALL NITE!

FRI. SEPT. 4, 2015

ST. STEPHEN’S CHURCH AUDITORIUM

2806 NEWKIRK AVE.
& E.28 ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11226
8.00 P.M.

WITH JEGGAE, AKOYAH, HILTON, ROSE, Verna & OTHER GUEST ARTISTES
ANYTHING GUYANESE FIRST FACEBOOK GROUP

Parent & Child

Crayola Kite Making &
Decorating Competition

CHILDREN’S VILLAGE - FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY: STARTS AT 2.00 P.M.

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Children 5 - 12 eligible.
- Each participant will make the kite of their choice and bring it to the competition.
- Parents can work with children.
- Kites must be homemade.
- Manufactured kites are not eligible.
- Panel of judges will decide the winner of the competition.
- Exciting prizes for the kids. 3 winners per category.

- MOST UNUSUAL KITE
  Entries are judged on theme, construction and design. Judges will look for odd, striking or novel features.

- SMALLEST KITE
  Entries must fly on at least 25 feet of twine and fly higher than the point of mooring.

- LARGEST KITE
  Square footage of the sail area will determine the largest kite. Kites must be capable of flying for 1 minute to qualify.

- YOUNGEST KITE FLYER
  Awards will also be presented to the youngest event contestants. Contestants must fly a kite unassisted to be eligible for this award.

ENTER THE COMPETITION

WIN EXCITING PRIZES FOR YOUR CHILD

TO REGISTER: 800 774 5762

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine
There is a space dedicated to children at Family Fun Day. When you enter the gates of Old Boys Field, go past the vendors on your right, turn right and head towards the back of the ground away from the main stage.

What you and your young ones will find is a well maintained expanse of soft green grass, free of extraneous traffic where children are free to run and play. There are three tents set up with chairs and tables included. There is a special stage.

You may join in the fun but let the children enjoy lime and spoon races, foot races and sack races.

This year is our kite making extravaganza. The Crayola Kite Making Competition will be fierce. Remember to make room for the kids now. Win exciting Crayola prizes for back to school.

Do not remark as one parent did last year, “Wait, wait, how you know I had play days? Give me a chance nuh.”

You will see the well rehearsed St. Albans Church Maypole dancers, led by Claire Sandiford representing one of Guyana’s well loved acts of bridging cultures, showing their motion.

There are art and exploratory experiences. Give-aways, such as school supplies, tee shirts, bags, popcorn, drinks and other treats, specially for all children will be provided, as always, by donors such of Metroplus Health Plan and Digicel Worldwide.

Surrounding this children dedicated space are vendors and companies that provide information on health insurance, community safety and other child related advisory forums.

The tents and the surrounding area are a haven for parents and other care-givers. The immediate noise of the fun of Family Fun Day is distantly pleasant but audible. So drop by, even you do not have children with you on FFD. You will not miss the activity on the main stage. Instead you may even imagine that you are sitting on Kitty Seawall, feeling the breeze, knowing that the children are sharing, right here in Brooklyn, a piece of Guyana.

As one parent said at a previous Family Fun Day, “Life should be like this. Look at the children enjoying themselves, eh. So nice.”
2015 FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY

DIAMOND, SPIDER WEBB, WATER WEAVE, CART WHEEL, BARBER'S BRAID

MAYPOLE PLAIGHTING

Pretty little butterfly
what you do all day
Run about at Sunday school
nothing do but play,
Nothing do but play meb da'ling
nothing do but play
Fly butterfly, fly butterfly
don't waste your time all day.

THE MAY QUEEN AND HER COURT

"Away to the green and dance the Maypole"

ST. ALBANS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MAYPOLE GROUP ON SHOW

Established in 2000, dancers are aged five through sixteen and are drawn from community youth from Guyana and the Caribbean.
Teachers Clare Sandiford, Floretta Rose, Judith Paddy and Winifred Reynolds take them through their paces.
EXCITING NEW MUSICAL FOR FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY
MAIN STAGE SHOW

Written by Claire Ann Goring

Directed by Rose October-Edun

Narration by Kwesi Oginga

Music: Souflantis & Ninja Band; Jeggae, Akoyaw, Hilton, Saxie

Costumes by Clive Prowell

Choreography by Wayne Daniels Verna Walcott-White & Rose October-Edun

Stage Design by Maurice Blenman, Geoffrey Azore

Backdrop - Colin Warde

Back Stage: Ave Brewster-Haynes Alex Neptune Penny Bascomb Pat Jordan-Langford Paulette Barry Jackie Newton Glenna Tony

Sound effects by Oswald Bobb

SHOW TIME
4.00 P.M. SHARP
“Rekindling Our Past Glory through Youth Innovation”.

“Building Strong Families through Entrepreneurship.”

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine
The African Cultural & Development Association (ACDA) while celebrating its 22nd Anniversary, held its 21st consecutive Emancipation Day Festival at the National Park on Freedom Day, Saturday 1st August 2015. This was also ACDA’s first Emancipation during the International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) which began January 2015 and will end 31st December 2024.

ACDA’s Emancipation 2015 Emancipation Festival on August 1 was again very successful even that saw thousand attend the National Park for a grand finale for activities that began in early July. This year, with new initiatives such as the free Children’s Fun City Tent with over 10 activities (Face painting, Storying Telling etc.) where parents could drop their kids and children off at 10 am and return at 6 pm, the crowd seemed bigger and more energetic.

Indeed, there was a different energy at the National Park. Many whom were interviewed spoke about feeling free after years of being oppressed. Many expressed joy at being able to absorb their culture in an atmosphere of family. Many anticipated the arrival of President David Granger at the Park and many were happy to know the Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo and his Wife along with Ministers Basil Williams, Amna Ally, Rupert Roopnaraine, Dominic Gaskin, Valerie Garrido-Lowe and Annette Ferguson were all in attendance along with prominent private sector leaders such as Dr. Yesu Persaud and Mr. Kissoon.

ACDA’s theme for Emancipation 2015 was “Rekindling Our Past Glory through Youth Innovation”. The sub theme was: “Building Strong Families through Entrepreneurship.” These themes were chosen in recognition of the importance of our Youth knowing their history and the legacy of their Ancestors whom have been on this Earth for 3 million years as manifested by the skeleton of Lucy (Dinkenesh) and the need to build Guyanese families through economic strength via Entrepreneurship.
HONORING AN AFRICAN COUNTRY

NIGER

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

As is tradition, ACDA honours an African country every Emancipation Festival by building an educational booth for that country. This year 2015, the country to be honoured is NIGER (The Republic of Niger). Niger, in West Africa’s Sahara region, is four-fifths the size of Alaska. It is surrounded by Mali, Algeria, Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, and Burkina Faso. The Niger River in the southwest flows through the country’s only fertile area. Elsewhere the land is semi-arid.

Prior to French Colonization Niger’s played a valuable part in prehistoric history especially considering the fact it was a part of four major Empires and Kingdoms, namely:

- The Songhai Empire (600–1591)
- The Hausa kingdoms (mid-14th century – 1808)
- The Mali Empire (1230–1600)
- The Kanem-Bornu Empire (early 9th century – 1900)

An Educational Booth with pictures of Niger as well as those from 9 past countries was on display at the Festival next door to the Children’s Fun Center.

HONOURING AN AFRICAN GUYANESE VILLAGE-
WAKENAAM (ESSEQUIBO COAST)

One of the greatest entrepreneurial acts by freed Africans in World history was the Village Movement which started in 1839. Freed Africans combined their resources to buy Villages so that they did not have to return to Plantation life and cheap punitive labor.

For Emancipation 2015, ACDA honoured the African Village of Maria Johanna on the Island of Wakenaam in the Essequibo.

Wakenaam is an island in the mouth of the Essequibo River. It is 17.5 square miles and is therefore one of the largest islands in the River. In 1690, after the French invaded Fort Island, the Dutch plantation owners moved to and settled on the island of Wakenaam. The name Wakenaam is Dutch and means “waiting for a name”. One of these Dutch men started a plantation and named it Maria Johanna which is thought to be named after his twin daughters.

The British in the 1716 took control of Wakenaam and Maria Johanna. In 1803 the plantation owner was Hugenoltz. The plantation was bought by Mr. Boddart and Company in 1832 and then by Adam Ramkin in 1851. The Plantation was surveyed by Henry Rainford and 88 house lots were laid out, most of them to accommodate the workers.
The Colonial government took control of the plantation because of bankruptcy and later sold it to a Company in April 1871 whose shareholders were predominantly former slaves. The sale price $700.

Due to a major disagreement among shareholders as to what was the best way to develop the land, there were many disagreements. Ultimately, the plantation was taken over by the Partition Ordinance in 1914. In 1921 a Village was created and a tax system was introduced.

Any visitor to Maria Johnson can still observe evidence of a Dutch occupation and the fact that slaves worked there. There is a unique Dutch sluice which after a century still stands immaculate and spectacular. Every now and then, various types of Dutch bottles and coins are found in the ground. The island still contains old Dutch graves at various locations and there is also a Dutch well.

Wakenaam has multiple villages including Good Success, San Souci, Melville, Eagles Rust, New Belle Plaine, Sarah, Caledonia, Zeelandia, Meerzorg, Fredericksburg and Maria Johanna.

The main economic activity of Wakenaam is agricultural (cash crops), poultry and coconut oil.

OUR HEROES - "Rekindling Our Past Glory through Youth Innovation".

Global African Leaders Celebrated for Emancipation 2015:

- LUZIA - This young African woman skeleton was found in Brazil in 1975. Tests proved she lived in the region over 12,000 years ago before Amerindians came through the Bering Strait.
- KING TUTANKHAMEN - THE “Boy King”. His tomb revealed the richness and creativity of ancient Egypt. The Pyramids of this period highlight the technology, mathematics, science and engineering skills of African People.
- MARCUS GARVEY - At age 28 founded the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) just over 100 years ago in 1914. At his Madison Square Garden conference in 1921, there were 50,000 people. His most famous economic venture was a shipping company known as the Black Star Line, a counterpart to a white-owned company called the White Star Line. Garvey started the shipping company in 1919 as a way to promote trade but also to transport passengers to Africa. He believed it could also serve as an important and tangible sign of black success.
• ANESI & OSINE IKHIANOSIME - 13 and 15 year old, Nigerian brothers who built Mobile Web Browsing Alternative To Google Chrome. The young problem solvers got tired of waiting for Google Chrome to load on their mobile phones, so decided to do something about it. They decided to build a better mobile browser last year and called it Crocodile Browser Lite 3.0. Currently live and ready for your download in the Google Play store right now. By the age of 7 & 9, the duo knew they wanted to start their own technology company. Inspired by Microsoft Windows platform, they decided to name their company “Doors”. However, later they discovered that the name was taken, so they changed it to Blu Doors”, which is still the current name of the company.

At the ages of 12 and 14, they decided to take on the task of learning how to code and taught themselves, using sites like Code Academy, Code Avenger and books like ‘Android for Game Development’ and ‘Games for Dummies,” said Anesi.

They plan to create a better browser for low end featured phones, one that is needed for the developing world. While Chrome and other browsers work great on high end smart phones, the majority of the world are not using this technology and need a low-end option that still provides quick browsers response, so this is what the young men did. They built a better mouse trap for the phones they were using.
WINIFRED SELBY - A young Ghanaian entrepreneur, co-started Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative when she was just 15. The award winning company makes bicycles out of bamboo and has caught the attention of global organisations. She was fed-up. Whilst at school Selby discovered a number of things about Ghana, and the continent in general, that deeply upset her. She said “I always say Africans are the richest... there are so many things we have and can add value to make a change. But Africans always seem to think they cannot do something extraordinary, but rather only people from foreign countries can,” she said sternly.

She also realised there was demand for an affordable mode of transport in her country after learning many students in Ghana have to walk miles to get to school. She realised farmers faced a similar challenge and often had to walk great distances carrying heavy loads to get produce to markets, due to a lack of transportation in agricultural areas. And in addition there is the high unemployment levels and the reality that Ghana needs many more growing businesses and entrepreneurs to provide much needed jobs. All of these things frustrated Selby, and she desperately wanted to be part of as many solutions as possible.

She said “I was 15, a student, and didn’t have any money. I can’t make cars – they are too expensive. But I kept thinking, what can I do to add value to bring a change in Africa? And then I realised what to do because I [remembered] my country is blessed with many things.” One is bamboo – which Ghana has an abundance of. And it wasn’t long before she – with the help of two older students, Bernice Dapaah and Kwame Kyei – discovered they could convert the bamboo into sturdy, shock-resistant bicycle frames. And so the Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative was born.

Five years later the company employs around a dozen people full-time, produces between 60 and 100 bicycles a month, and has provided hundreds with a form of transport. The bikes have found a large export market and received some international recognition. In November 2013 UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon took a spin on one of Selby’s bikes at the Warsaw Climate Change Conference. And Selby, who has now just turned 20, is also no stranger to media attention and has received a number of accolades. Last year she was named a 2014 Anzisha Prize finalist, an award for African entrepreneurs between 15 and 22 who use entrepreneurship to solve problems in their communities. She has also been recognised as a 2014 Set Africa Fellow, and WEF Global Shaper.

Today, one of the company’s major challenges is keeping up with demand.

MICHAEL AKINDELE - A 30-year-old Nigerian phone entrepreneur has been making great strides in the mobile device market — so much so, that he has been challenging tech giants such as Apple. The company, SOLO Phone, was started in 2012, and Akindele serves as director and co-founder. The company is aimed at delivering mobile solutions, services, and platforms to consumers all at a reasonable price. The company’s smartphones are priced at $150 and come with up to 20 million free songs licensed by Sony, Universal, and Warner. Its latest release is an app named Video-On-Demand, available to all Nigerians with an Android device and makes available Nollywood and Hollywood movies. SOLO Phone is making strides in the market and can definitely challenge other giants within the market, believes Akindele.

His work as a technology consultant at Accenture also helped him to gain first-hand knowledge in his field. This is where he started working on “The Apprentice: Africa,” which was the American version of Donald Trump’s “The Apprentice.” He returned to Africa in 2007 to help produce, develop, and distribute the show, which gained a huge following in Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana and Kenya during the 18 weeks it was aired on the continent.

Before SOLO Phone, he had a company called Fusion Mobile, but it did not last very long because of a lack of funding and persons not believing in an African manufacturing phone company. Adlevo Capita, however, changed all that in 2013 when they partnered with Akindele. This led to the birth of SOLO Tayo Ogunjide is a telecom specialist who led the push to develop the company and has experience working with companies such as Sony Ericsson and HTC. His experience led to the realization of SOLO on Nov. 22, 2013. Since then, the reception from the public has been tremendous, as they seek to provide experience-driven and strong digital content to both the young and the old. What has been keeping consumers interested and has set SOLO apart from others in the market is the high content and services it provides at such an affordable price.

Indeed Emancipation 2015 was a time of celebration, education and the revival of African cultural traditions.

ACDA’s Emancipation Day Festival was one activity in hundreds that took place across the length and breadth of Guyana. Over 60 villages in Essequibo, Berbice and Demerara has events and were supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport.

ACDA and many African organizations such as the Cuffy 250, Pan African Organization, the 1823 Group and villages such as Buxton (First of August), Bagotsville, Den Amstel, Hope Town (soiree), Linden, Sandyoort, Liverpool etc. held their own annual programs.

A central part of the month was a series of presentations, conferences and TV shows on Emancipation, Black Economics and reparations were also held.

For ACDA itself, the Emancipation Day Festival is just one of its activities. It has a School of 80 children aged 2 years six to 9. ACDA also has a weekly cultural program of dancing, drumming, storytelling, computer and literacy classes and its Ronald Waddell Reading Room/Library is open year round.
In support of the vital role GCA plays in our cultural landscape, GCA has plans to create a multidisciplinary folk art museum, media center and performance space designed to support artists and provide space to document, collect, preserve and interpret the creative works of Guyanese artists from around the world. Office space for GCA will also be part of this expansion. It will be an important community space committed to creating an environment that inspires creativity, encourages learning, and fosters cultural understanding.

THE GUYANA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

GA&CC’s mission is to educate communities regarding Guyanese/Caribbean heritage via the establishment of an institution devoted to folk arts research, and preservation of Guyanese creative art forms. The Center will promote and preserve Guyanese/Caribbean Culture and history.

While resources for those in lower socioeconomic circles have become scarce, we feel strongly that the work that we are doing will make a difference in the lives of many, especially our children, who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

OUR TRACK RECORD

The annual Guyana Folk Festival in Brooklyn, organized and executed by our parent organization the Guyana Cultural Association (GCA), is a popular summer destination and cultural sharing experience for Guyanese and non-Guyanese from across the United States, the Caribbean and other parts of the world. For 14 years, the signature events of the annual Folk Festival season have been the Family Fun Day, Awards Ceremony, Literary Hang, Performing Arts season, Kwe Kwe Night, the Video and Film Festival, and the Symposium along with the Caribbean Summer Heritage Workshops, supported by Council member Jumaane Williams and Council member Mathieu Eugene.

GOALS

• Develop a Cultural Institution that researches, collects, owns, maintains, preserves, and archives information regarding Guyanese/Caribbean way of life. To make objects and artifacts available to provide additional information benefitting Caribbean people and other non-Caribbean communities.

• Through the programs of the Guyana Arts & Cultural Center, address the needs among Guyanese/Caribbean immigrant children in Brooklyn, New York. Matthews and October-Edun, both GCA executive members have chronicled in their publication – English-Speaking Caribbean Immigrants, Transnational identities, “School children from the Caribbean represent one of the most rapidly growing single-immigrant groups in North America” and that they face a wide range of challenges, among them issues of self-esteem and identity.
THE PROGRAMS:

GACC SCHOOL OF ART
For young artists who want to make art, build their artistic skills and explore new art forms and mediums. Encourage teens to nurture and hone their talents by offering art classes and workshops taught by experienced educators who are also professional artists. Instructors will guide young artists through learning techniques for different artistic mediums including drawing, painting, and sculpture.

GACC SCHOOL OF MUSIC
To provide a high quality, flexible and affordable music education program for all young people interested in music: piano, tabla, sitar, African drums, flute, steelpan, violin, saxophone and other instruments and chorus. Students will have the opportunity to play with and learn from the best musicians in the diaspora. This is also an opportunity to pass on our musical traditions to a younger generation.

GACC SCHOOL OF DANCE
The School of Dance provides students of all ages the opportunity to experience dance in a context that values the creative process. With professional dance instructors, students will explore creative expression through movement by learning different dance techniques. The Workshop will also offer an adult program.

GACC SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS
The Drama program will encourage students to explore their performance and acting skills through a variety of theater and drama related activities. Students will have opportunities to learn acting exercises and techniques as well as the technical aspects to executing a play or production.

THE GCA ART RESEARCH LIBRARY
will have a non-circulating collection consisting of monographs, reference books and databases, collection and exhibition catalogues, scholarly periodicals, catalogues, and manuscripts.

THE GCA CULTURAL CENTER STORE:
- BOOKS, CDS, DVD, ART & CRAFT:
The Cultural Center Store will offer an extensive collection of merchandise representing work from different artists. It will be available to persons interested in handmade craft and folk art, art-inspired gifts, books, DVD and CDs from Guyanese artists and craftsmen. Products will be supplied by the artists on consignment to GCA.
The Museum Store will also sell items on-line through the GCA website store.

THE CONFERENCE AND AUDIO VISUAL ROOM:
The Conference Room will be equipped with film and digital projectors, professional sound and lighting system and all tele-conferencing capabilities: high-speed wireless internet, Audio/Visual, computer, fax, photocopying services will also be available.

PERFORMANCE SPACE
The performance space will provide opportunities for people to come together in creation and celebration of culture. This space, which will be shared with St. Stephen’s Church membership
- Will provide a forum to discuss current issues artists are facing.
- Display the art and heritage of all Guyanese.
- Collections - preserving them for future generations while making them accessible to visitors.
- Educational programs:
- Educational mission would be to create a greater understanding of the art and culture of the Guyanese people.
- Workshops: For adults and children
- Monthly Sunday Afternoon Concerts
- Public Lectures
- Video series to showcase up-coming artists.
The Guyana Cultural Association (GCA) New York, Inc. is approaching its 15th anniversary, which coincides with the 50th Independence Anniversary of our homeland in May 2016. We invite you to be a financial contributor as we embark on a new and exciting initiative – the establishment of the Guyana Arts & Cultural Center (GACC). This new initiative reaffirms our commitment to the study, preservation and celebration of Guyana’s rich multi-ethnic heritage, in furtherance of the GCA’s vital role in our cultural landscape.

This project will include a Museum of Guyanese Craft and Folk Art and the GACC’s Schools of Music, Dance and Performing Arts. The GACC will also provide video and audio production training to enhance and facilitate the inter-generational transfer of knowledge relating to Guyanese heritage and creativity.

Over the past 14 years, we have celebrated our multi-ethnic heritage. We have also recognized the contributions of many important artists-musicians, writers, dancers, composers, and producers. We have also maintained our commitment to the study, preservation and celebration of Guyana’s rich multi-ethnic heritage, at home and abroad.

The annual Folk Festival season, which culminates with Family Fun Day on the Sunday before Labor Day, is currently the association’s flagship program. Family Fun Day, along with the Caribbean Summer Heritage workshops, Awards Ceremony, Literary Hang, the MoBraff Performing Arts season, Kwe Kwe Night, Video and Film Festival and the Symposium, are the signature events of the annual Folk Festival season.

Your tax-deductible gift in any amount will ensure that the Guyana Arts & Cultural Center becomes a reality. This will bring us one step closer to achieving our vision of the preservation, promotion and propagation of Guyana’s multi-cultural heritage. An understanding of our commonalities is essential to building trust in multi-ethnic Guyana.

We are deeply grateful to our corporate sponsors. GCA’s executive board and members express profound gratitude for your enthusiastic support over the years. We now invite you to take the next step in supporting this new initiative and to ensure our young people have access to arts and media that enrich our community and reflect the rich diversity of our Guyanese heritage.

**MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION**

www.guyanaculturalassociation.org/contribution/

You may also mail your check or money order to

The Secretariat
Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.
1368 E. 89th Street, Suite 2, Brooklyn, NY 11236 USA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
SUPPORT THE GUYANA EX-POLICE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
2015 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

1. FRIDAY AUGUST 28, 2015, Fund Raiser
   - Buster.

2. FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2015
   - Pre-Labor Day Jam

3. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2015
   - Folk Festival

4. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015
   - Bus Ride to Sands Casino Resorts Bethlehem, P.A.

5. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 Fund Raiser
   - Buster

6. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015 Fund Raiser
   - Buster

7. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015
   - Fund Raising Dance Woodbine Ballroom
     (Buster, Terry and Exquisit Sounds)

8. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015 Fund Raiser
   - Buster

9. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2015 Fund Raiser
   - Buster

10. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2015
    - New Years Eve Dance

LOOK FOR THE GUYANA EX-POLICE ASSOCIATION BOOTH AT FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2015
GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE
Rudolph “Putagee”
Vivierios Fund

BANK ACCOUNT IN GUYANA
Hand In Hand Trust Corporation Inc.
A/c # 13731

IN THE DIASPORA
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of New York, Inc.
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Brooklyn, NY 11236

Make check payable to
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of New York, Inc.
Subject: Putagee Health Fund

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DJ Flexx

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at Saints and St. Rose’s

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St. Rose’s (917) 763-5075 or (347) 967-9635.

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Do you love to sing? 
SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR, BASS
GACC Director of Music - Mildred Lowe.

The Guyana Arts & Cultural Center announces auditions for the soon to be formed GACC International Choir, which is part of its Music School.

Professional and non-professional singers are invited to audition. The Choir will serve our country as a goodwill ambassador of Guyana, bringing Guyanese music to communities in the Diaspora.

Our repertoire will include Guyanese national and folk songs, classical, spiritual and gospel.

FOR AUDITION DETAILS
CONTACT THE GCA SECRETARIAT
800 774 5762