“PUTAGEE”
RECIPIENT OF GCA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Masquerade Jamboree 2016
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

As we near the end of this calendar year and as we are given by members of the media the highlights and pitfalls of these 12 months, we pause in reflection of the endurance of the human spirit. We take it on the chin, bounce back, keep on trucking even in the face of the deepest despair. The pages of this edition are filled with acknowledgment of lives lived to the best of our ability. We are Guyanese.

We celebrate the deaths of the famous, such as, E. R. Brathwaite. We hail families, such as, the Huntes and individual milestones as represented by the message from the first woman Consul General to New York, the Hon. Barbara Atherly. And we bring to the forefront, as we reflect at Christmas on the child in all of us, the much loved vendors at our school gates, the anticipations within our groups of friends, young and old, for, surely, we have been nice not naughty and we look both back and forward.

Yvonne Sam writes poignantly about the meaning of Christmas and we are treated to a revitalization of the quintessential Masquerade performance in the first Masquerade Jamboree, Masquerade Lives! A young poet, removed from the idyll of his first love longs for a return to that state. And, this may be the trope running through this edition: a longing for a return of young innocence. Three year old Levi Barry flouncing to the music of Rudolph Vivieros, known lovingly in Guyanese style, as Putagee, Alpha and Omega, the beginning is in the end, we as Guyanese persevere, change and stand.

We welcome the reports on the new President, a male, to Bishops’ High School Alumni Association and the annual Christmas tradition established in Beterverwating by Edgar Henry. We promote the publication of Percy Haynes’ e-book, Beyond Bourda Green. We acknowledge the presentation of Derry Etkins’ Bourda Stabroek Affaire - we bring forward and pay forward. Dis time Nah Lang Time writes the Matthews Brothers so we welcome 2017, perhaps over some home made ice cream!

A Joyful Kwanzaa,
A Wonderful Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas.
May 2017 be a year of Peace for us all.

Juliet Emanuel, December Editor

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine
The GCA family wishes you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Vibert C. Cambridge, A.A., Ph.D., President
Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.

Photograph by The Healing Arts Foundation

Masquerade Lives!
3-year old Levi Barry, part of a young new generation of Masqueraders moving Masquerade forward.

Thank you to Ronald McDonald House, Metroplus Health Plan and Crayola Company for your contribution of gifts.

Photograph by Pat Jordan-Langford

Kids & Consul General Barbara Atherly

Photograph by Pat Jordan-Langford
For the first time since its inception in the late eighties and in an era of progressive change, the Bishops’ High School Alumni Association Tri-State Chapter elected by popular vote, its first male President, Wayne Knight.

An ardent supporter of the organization for several years, Wayne also served as Vice President within the last Executive.

The primary goal of the Chapter is consistent with so many others like it: to provide subsidy and other tangible support towards the upkeep of the school through its fundraising events. In this regard and with its ongoing activities to increase funding, the Chapter retains its quest for the school’s success and longevity.

Ever since he became a member of the Chapter, Wayne dedicated time and energy towards each resolve, the accomplishment of which can be attributed in part to his unwavering dedication. His steadfastness in ensuring the success of these events endeared him to the organization and saw him as fully competent to lead.

As he proudly mentioned in our conversation, Wayne entered Bishops’ High School in 1977 and left in 1983 when he migrated to the United States. He appreciates the opportunity to field new ideas during his term as President. Wayne also sees the Chapter at an important crossroad – one that will take it to a higher level by increasing the membership and stimulating individual interest with new and innovative ideas. He also expressed a willingness to engage the support of Past Presidents during his term.

Continuing with the goal to maintain consistent upkeep of his alma mater, Wayne feels that the time is ripe for increasing fund-raising initiatives which would have greater impact on the financial success of the Chapter, to the ultimate benefit of Bishops’ High School.

Wayne is supported in his new role by Janice Innis-Cox, Vice-President, Cleveland John, Treasurer, Audrey Smith-Hogan, Secretary, and Sharon Munro, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

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

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

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Born in a tenement yard in the British colony of Guiana (now Guyana) on the shoulder of South America, Percy Haynes, in Beyond Bourda Green, writes about the changes in his homeland and people during the transition to an independent nation. His multi-faceted career as Journalist, Communications Expert, University Lecturer and Foreign Service Officer enables him to tell a fascinating story about his childhood memories, his experiences in finding his place in the world and the birth pangs of the new nation.
“Colonial Christmas is probably the closest we would get to any festival which is organically national.” (Vidyaratha Kissoon, “Black, Coolie, Guyanese in 2017.” The Coil (December 26, 2016).

Masquerade has been an essential ingredient in the Guyana Christmas for more than two centuries—from slave society, to British colony, to post-colonial state. It is now part of our cultural DNA. As we noted on a December 11 post in the Facebook series MASQUERADE JAMBOREE/Festival of Guyana Masquerade, “[Masquerade] has stood the test of time. Masquerade is organic and it is naturally inclusive.”

As a masquerade chant expresses:

“... is one thing that does send me mad ... is masquerade drum and kittle. Music!”

Masquerade music is one of the special flavors of Guyanese Christmas. It is like the flavor that a good Pomeroon casa-reep gives to your Christmas pepper pot.

We, the members of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc., wish to extended our sincerest appreciation to the masquerade bands that made MASQUERADE JAMBOREE/Festival of Guyana Masquerade in Georgetown the success that it has been. Special thanks to:

- Torch (Jerome Cumberbatch, leader)
- Ann’s Grove Warriors (Otis Barry, leader)
- Victoria Renegades (Kwami Franklin, leader)
- Golden Arrowhead (Trevor Blackett, leader)
- The Joker is Wild (Rafael Waldron, leader)
- Jack Diamond (Simon Pompey, leader)
- Gold Rush (Shawn Soso, leader)

Thank you for sharing your love of the art. It was good to see GCA’s Lifetime Achievement awardee Rudolph “Puttage” Vivieros playing the flute.

MASQUERADE JAMBOREE/Festival of Guyana Masquerade ended last evening with the premiere of Derry Etkins’ The Bourda/Stabroek Affaire. This is another example of his work on developing a distinctive Guyanese sound. The Bourda/Stabroek Affaire incorporates folk and masquerade music and instruments such as the tabla. With this composition, Etkins again demonstrates the versatility of masquerade music.
In her pioneering work in progress, "Toasts, Boasts, and Memory: A Preliminary Look at the Lyrical Traditions of Guyanese Masquerade," Dr. Paloma Mohamed describes the masquerade toast/chant process as follows:

"The performance always begins with the lively music of a three or four-man musical ensemble made up of the fife which is usually the lead instrument, the kettle drum (Kittle or Boomba) and a triangle. The Toaster usually the leader of the band will stop the music with the vocal command “Bantu or Bantoo” in some recent instances the words “thank you” are also used. The music then stops and the chant or toast is given dry—that is without musical accompaniment. When the toaster is finished he then gives a verbal signal for the band to continue playing by saying “Music!” or “Band!” The musical ensemble then resumes their playing in which the dancers and other characters in the band dance and retrieve monies thrown into hats or unto the ground by spectators."

In addition to describing the toast/chant process, Dr. Mohamed offers a connection to Egungun—the African art of masquerade. This work focuses timely attention on a long-lasting constituent of Guyana’s cultural landscape—an example of an African retention.

For Dr. Patricia Cambridge:

"A distinctive feature of Guyana’s masquerade music is the three-note figure played by the flute—a quick ascending fourth (quavers/eighth-notes) that begins on an upbeat and a descending second, which is played on the downbeat and held for three beats until the figure is repeated. In my recollection, this long note (a dotted minim/half-note) was sometimes embroidered with a trill. The boom is struck loudly on the second half of that downbeat. That syncopation added to the excitement which was reflected in a change of dance steps to the stumble.” She adds, “For me, this is what gives Guyana’s masquerade a distinctive sound and makes it different from other similar art forms in the region.”

Source Paloma Mohamed. "Toasts, Boasts, and Memory: A Preliminary Look at the Lyrical Traditions of Guyanese Masquerade."
A child-centered event (nursery to 6) surrounding the launching of *Masquerade: My First Book* — an early childhood activity book developed by Dr. Juliet Emanuel.

**Students learning Masquerade steps:**

*Photograph by Dr. Rose October-Edun*

"My First Book about Masquerade" by Dr. Juliet Emanuel.

"My First Book About Masquerade" is a coloring and activity book created by Dr. Juliet Emanuel. This book is targeted to Nursery through K+ (that is up to 5 years, 11 months). The book introduces children to Guyana’s masquerade tradition: the main characters, the instruments, and the basic shapes in masquerade costumes—squares, triangles, circles, and rectangles.

"My First Book About Masquerade" is also designed to engage older readers. The book includes short passages to be read to the child. This is a family-friendly book.

The art work in the publication is produced by Claire Ann Goring.

"My First Book About Masquerade" is the first in a series of publications on Guyana’s masquerade heritage. According to Dr. Emanuel, the next publication in the series "will be a compilation of at least three biographies (Boysie Sage, Rudolph "Puttagee Vivieros, and Julio Thijs)." That compilation will also be targeted to 6-9 year olds.

"My First Book About Masquerade" will be launched on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at the National School of Dance, National Park, Georgetown, Guyana.

The mission of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. is to study and celebrate Guyana’s rich cultural heritage and encourage creativity.
Inspired by random footage shot in the Bourda and Stabroek areas, "The Bourda-Stabroek Affaire" is a yet-to-be-written movie, telling the story of a Private Investigator looking for something to investigate .... "privately".

The sound-track is based on yet another Guyanese Folk Song, and seeks to suggest ways in which the various musics of Guyana can be used in non-traditional ways, whether as the basis for Guyanese "Commercial/Pop" music, or Guyanese "Classical/Art" music .... or both.

The main groove in this piece is our Masquerade Groove. Two instances of Dejembe and Shak Shak, some Indian instruments, and a groove that the East Coast Train used to make, as the wheels ran over the joints in the track, add some "spread" to the soundtrack.

The thing is, the "East Coast Groove" is very similar to a groove I heard Indian musicians playing on the Tabla, while still a boy. Maybe, hearing the groove played on the Tabla coloured my hearing of the Train Groove, or, the Indian musicians heard the Train Groove, and it influenced them. I guess we'll never know. Either way, it's Guyanese! I throw the challenge out to our Film Makers, to write the script for this movie, whether Comedy or otherwise.

Come, Look, Listen and Enjoy!

Full article in January issue
POEM
by KAIE OMODELE.

I’ve suffered a thousand deaths
caged in an eight-by-ten
a bull in a pen
pacing steps, grunting
confined in concreted spaces
designed to
gut spirit from ribs
and plastic wrap thoughts
in stifling loneliness.

When Lonely oozes through
these cinderblocks
and tussles with my dreams
sucking warmth from conscience:
your photos spark the darkness
with so much soul-rousing light,
your taste fingers, sweet,
like tongue kissing time.

Though you’re not here
in my arms tonight
your memory I hug tight
I’m so longing for-
sssshhhhhh-
a hint of your scent
in that Egyptian-cotton, white sundress
wispy whispers, "Yes,"
breathless
essence
of you.
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL, Hon. Barbara Atherly
CONSULATE OF GUYANA, NEW YORK

GREETINGS!
My fellow Guyanese, on behalf of the Guyana Consulate I bring special Greetings to you and your family. May the splendor of this joyous Christmas Season bring you peace, joy, happiness and prosperity. I pray that 2017 will bring you great hope and expectations for our dear land, Guyana.

As we celebrate let us remember the real reason for the season: it is the season of love, joy, healing and renewal of spirit all realized through the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. According to John 3:16-17 which says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be saved". So let us remember to keep Christ at the forefront of all we do during this season. We have much to be thankful for. As we commemorate the birth of Jesus, let us also remember the birth of our Nation and the 50 years we have journeyed as an Independent country.

I urge that we all use the goodwill of the season to unite together, to put aside our differences, to share love and to celebrate our rich culture. At the same time let us remember the less fortunate among us, the poor, the needy, the homeless and the underprivileged children. It is the season for giving so let us share with our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Let us celebrate during this season in true Guyanese style with loved ones, telling the stories to our youths about the good old Guyanese Christmas, the smell of our traditional foods, the masquerade bands and office parties, how nostalgic!

Guyanese all, the Consulate of Guyana will move forward with purpose and vigor to serve you better in 2017. Once again, Merry Christmas to you and yours, peace and joy to the world and our country Guyana, let's aim for a brighter 2017 with faith in humanity.
Janet has lived in the U.S. for more than 30 years. She has been a musician and music teacher since childhood. After her first Christmas here, she was surprised that the sound of carol singing was not an integral part of the season. No carols after Christmas Day!

About five years after her arrival she arranged with my brother Terence and some close family and church members to have a sing a long. They played, they sang and had dinner. The next year they did the same thing, the group was now bigger. Not only carols but Christmas songs were also included.

Over the years it has become an annual event on the third Sunday of December. Each person is invited once, after that it is up to you to remember the date and time. If you arrive after 6 p.m. you’re late and have to sing to come in.

Janet was the official accompanist, after 24 years, she still plays at least one carol but Christmas songs were also included.

Her joy at Christmas is looking forward seeing old and new friends, and to participate fully in this annual Christmas event.

Mildred Lowe

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?

How to Use an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Can

Patricia Mitchell

Maybe you inherited an old-fashioned, hand-cranked (or electric) ice cream freezer. Or perhaps you retrieved your own down from the rafters and dusted the cobwebs off it. In any case, you don’t have any instructions, and can’t really remember the process.

All old-fashioned ice cream cans, regardless of make and model, pretty much work the same way. What follows are step-by-step instructions that will demystify the process.

To make and pack up to 4 quarts of ice cream, you will need about 15 pounds of crushed ice and either 4 cups of table salt or 6 cups of rock salt.

Wash the beater (often referred to as the “dasher”), top and cream can well before using. Let the parts cool down with a long-handled spoon. Scrape the ice cream from the beater and pack it into the cream. The ice cream should be about the texture of mush.

Plug motor in on electric model before packing ice and salt (Step 6). The can will begin to turn steadily to the right. On manual models, you start cranking as soon as the tub is packed. Turn the crank steadily to the right (avoid turning left), not too fast. Note: The beater is not made to turn. It stays still, and the can turns around it.

Packing ice and salt - Use either crushed ice cubes or crushed store-bought ice. (The finer the ice is crushed, the better it is, as the freezer is made to operate with crushed ice. Also, finely crushed ice will melt more evenly and will, therefore, give you a smoother textured ice cream.)

In packing, put about three inches of ice in the tub all around the can, and sprinkle about 3 ounces of table salt or 5 ounces of rock salt, evenly over the ice.

Continue adding ice and salt (in the above proportions), layer by layer, until tub is filled up to, but not over, the top of can.

When the tub is half full (approximately two layers of ice and salt), pour one cup of cold water over the ice and salt mixture. This will help the ice to melt and settle, which will shorten freezing time, and will help keep ice from jamming and causing stops. After tub is filled, pour another cup of cold water over the ice and salt.

As the ice melts and settles, you will need to add more ice and salt to keep it up to, but not over, top of can.

Before the cream is finished, the ice will melt enough to cause water to flow from the drain hole in the tub. Never let this drain hole become stopped up with ice.

Electric - The motor should run for 20 to 30 minutes or until the cream is the consistency of mush. On most electric models, the motor has an automatic reset switch which will prevent motor damage when it naturally stops when ice cream is ready. If the freezer freezes and the motor is not unplugged, the motor will cut off and stay off until it cools down. It will continue to cut off and on until the motor is unplugged. This will cause no motor damage. The freezer may become clogged with chunks of ice, which can cause the unit to stall before the ice cream is ready. If this happens, simply restart the unit by turning the can with your hands.

Hand Operated - The freezing period should take about 20 minutes of steady cranking. After the can becomes fairly hard to turn, the ice cream is ready. At this point, continuing to turn is not necessary.

This next part is really a two-person job. After the ice cream is ready, remove the motor unit (cranking mechanism if hand operated). Wipe all ice and salt from can top and then remove the top. Hold the can down on the bottom rest while pulling the beater out of the ice cream. The ice cream should be about the texture of mush.

Scrape the ice cream from the beater and pack it down with a long-handled spoon.
“Every year for the past 12 years, GCA executive goes back to his hometown village of Beterverwagting / Triumph to spread Christmas cheer with 150 kids in the area. Christmas is a magical time and he feels obligated to ensure that they are recognized. Michael Khan and Natasha Azeez fully clad as Mr. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus delighted the kids with carol singing, face painting and distribution of gifts. They were treated to sumptuous meals followed by ice cream, cake and nuts. Thanks to the contributors Ronald Mc Donald House, Metro Plus Health Plan, Crauola Company, Dr. Juliet Emanuel and the Guyana Cultural Association. The Spirit of the Season is one of Peace and Good Will in the village.”

THE CHILDREN OF BETERVERWAGTING RECEIVE CHRISTMAS CHEER

Thank You Santa!

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine
Soon we will be celebrating Christmas, with the mass celebrating the birth of Jesus the Christ — the Messenger. Across a country shaken by spiraling crime rates, lamentable road death fatalities, unabated domestic violence, the stores are festooned with lights, music fills the air and, despite the dismal realities of most, there is still talk of good cheer. Everywhere there is a visible rush to change around the house, buy presents, get new this and that and the party season is in full swing. The Christmas season is here! Sadly what is truly missing is the reason for Whom we celebrate the season: Jesus Himself. For as we rush around His name is never mentioned except in certain carols.

In essence truth and reality, Christmas is not really about Santa Claus, Jolly ole St. Nick, Father Christmas or any other names by which he may be known. It is also not a mere holiday, although we have always treated it as such. It is a Holy day. Far too many, the presence of presents denotes the absence of the gift of Jesus the Christ, “to proclaim good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and freedom) to the oppressed. We have also failed or still refuse to see that Jesus was representative of most of today’s humanity — despised, denied, damned and dispossessed.

Like a large percentage of the world’s population, Jesus was born poor and strange but true, he too was also a refugee. Closer to home, like more than one-third of the world population, his family did not have access to adequate health care. His mother was forced to deliver in a stable as there was no room at the stable’s inn. Jesus accumulated no worldly wealth, and did not attempt to rob anyone to acquire same, instead he sought to empower and enrich the most decimated. We will be judged, He told us, by how we treat “the least of these.” We will be graded on how we treat the stranger on the Jericho Road.

He would not expect us to run up monetary debts trying to celebrate his birthday, but to build up generosity credits instead. What about spending some time to feed the hungry, visit the sick and shut-in, comforting those who sorrow especially those who have lost loved ones to crime domestic or otherwise, or simply clothing the poorer clad?

Let it be fully understood that you do not need to be a Christian to understand the relevance of this story today.

Jesus taught us the overwhelming power of faith, hope and charity, the importance of love, and the obligation to fight for peace and justice.

Christmas should be treated as the “Poor Peoples’ Holy Day” and not be co-opted through commercialization by the rich, the powerful and the greedy as their holiday.

This Holy Day belongs to all. So, let us make Heaven and Jesus happy this Christmas, by facing all the presenting problems, terrors and tribulations together as a people and turning to each other in love, not against each other in fear. A heart-changing attitude that should prevail long after the birthday celebration has ended.

Remember Christmas should not come from a store, but instead let it mean love a little more.
Hubert Williams and Param Sharma

From dem tunes, and de fact dat de place turnin’ dark soon in de awfnoon, chilrun duz know Crismus. Poor people house dus gat de bigges’ fun an lotta wuk. Dey duk brukup house in Noumba. Stories pictures duz gaffa tun to back, de winda blinds tek down, an wood furnicha gettin a good sappanaer fun fuh a new coat o’ varnish or french polish. Ah uses to be wawan o’ de bes French polishis in de place, aftar larnin from a man wuh cum from Surinam name Edwin Maes. De oll wearout cheap kilonemon wuh supply serve one year gun stay dere pon top about six other layers to receev de new shiny cheap one (nobby din used fuh trow way nutt’n). Glas windows gah du free, walls gah fu scrub, de potted plants gah gah fu get lil cow manure and reglar waterin so dey can catch back desel in time fu gh in de house fo de hallidays.

All dis time biznis kickin piss in de shoppin centuhs like Walter Street, Regent Street an Camp Street. Dem bissinismen who used fuhr bringin deh out de hole of Englun and America now gettin pass de gavment ban by bringin down de hole o’ CARICOM fuh sell we at Crismus. It duz be real madness, ah tel yuh, down Wataf, Regent, Camp, an Lombard Streets. All de roads and stores fulla people. Pickpockets anchoke-n-robb birds mekkin dey play. Lil chilrun huslin fu get lil holiday funds. De Stabroek an Bourda muneecupel markets dus always be busy like bees. If you see people! An it’s amazin how yuh can get anything in dem markets - alive or dead; teefin tings too. Dem two markets is like a whole wurl apart.

Dis is de time wen evryday payin out bonus: gavment, friendly societies, co-op societies, private bizniz, penny-banks, school trift groups a’fh evryday, not to menshun de sugar barons. Steelbands trimpin bout de place, maskaraiders in costumz, ah tel yuh, Miss Nadia Sally kikkin up a storm pon de road, a lotta lil string bans playin at de roadside an dey always gat a big enameel cup - like wuh me-gram-mudda uses fuh drink chocolate tea from - fuh collec wateeva yuh waan gat dem; stores piping music thru some teartal ‘speakers’ like if dey waan fuh gih ole people heart attack. Various groups dus be goin round singin songs for freecs, ah yuh cyant hear yuh ears for Crismus sounds.

Dat is de time too when lil boys who dus sing in de church quire pon a sundee goin’ from house to house singin’ carols an collect freecs, Crismus cake an ginger beer, mauly an sorrel drinks. In dem days, gettin a sixpence, a bit, or a truppanze (24, 12, 6 cunts) deh in abundance.

Crismus time here does mek evryday gah (not dat kinda gah) an happy, exchangin ‘presents’ an givin, visitin one-an-nada homes, got in groupz, havin’ a wha-of-a-time, wowin de chilrun wid toys an goodz fu eat, an visitin de sick in de hospitals.

Neighbas wuh aint talk to oneanndaa fun dus months duz start sharin drinks an havin a good geeuwaff.

Politishuns who cus like enemies hole year, duz be slappin oneanndaa back an’ clinkin glass like if de prold soln com sum. Biznismen who gat dey eye pon free an favreblee ruppes nee' x time, sendin out gifts like mad to de press, includin lotta likker an cigrits.

Santa Claus stil aroun wid e red suit, big belly an white beard, but more offin dan not nowadays e Black.

Dis time, lav, look food. Dey cyant stop we wid Crismus food, an ah feel dem deelishus smells does reach right cross de Caribbean. We really does be in summa good time nowadays, sights and sounds. An wen ah talk bout dem, it is jahmbe or duppy ah mean, is de real ting, de dis-tilled spirits, ah talk bout... lots of it.

A piece-a-time de gahment wuz trying to fool roon wid dem mus we deh in up an concentrat pon Republic Week in Febawerry. People get mad and nearly eat off de gahment head, an jus as good.

In dis type o’ situashun we duz mek we New Year reso... yuh know wuh we duz sing? ...not nutt’n from Sparrow o’ Kitch, nekkh Regare, nor de Gahyana Boom, or Bajun Sproute. We duz sing AULD LANG SYNE.

We plej we cum up in de dance halls an singin wuh de British teach, we vastly numbers dus be prayin at midnite service; an downtown, people who aint gat houses wuz in ah hall an dance al day to welcom in de New Year, yuh know wuh yuh dus sing? ...not nutt’n from Sparrow o’ Kitch, nekkh Regare, nor de Gahyana Boom, or Bajun Sproute. We duz sing AULD LANG SYNE.

As de local sayin goes, if yuh lookin for a good garlick pork, fuh instance. Dat is a must, an ah hear mi Mudda seh how garlick pork was part uh de scene since Boysie born. Ah nevva know who Boysie was or wen e born; but dat is wat ah uses to hear mi Mudda seh. One time wen I ask mi Mudda wen we gun change from garlick pork as a Crismus speshul, she seh “nevawarvay mawrin.”

The pork does gat to sah fuh days in vinniggah, wid gih gah different styles. If you see garlick. Wen dey start sellin fuh pork cook, de smell does knock yuh from a bout a mile away.

As de local sayin goes, if yuh lookin for a good garlick pork, fuh instance. Follier yuh nose. Pepperpot (which only wen yuh know how fuh meat right), metiin-wah coconut milk, peas an rice, an all kinda odda nice food for a 10-year-old, to chotie bhajan - a strong ting wuh deh in abundance.

Rum. An fo evry fruit Guyana gat, dem housewives duz mek deh in summa goot, wuh deh in abundance.

In de late 1960s it was a big ting, to dance at one o’ de big clubs an watch deh in accelerat deh in de moon, people ah tun back to house parties web evrybody paya ‘ab’ an get evrything free.

An ah hear also dat aften 3 o’clakk, wid de fete in full swing, some o’ de big clubs dus add water to de likker (for same price) believe yuh dun drunk arredy an aint gahment knu de diffrunce . . .

It duz be a good fete, though. An at midnite wen we kiss an bell an bello to welcom in de New Year, yuh know wuh yuh dus sing? ...not nutt’n from Sparrow o’ Kitch, nekkh Regare, nor de Gahyana Boom, or Bajun Sproute. We duz sing AULD LANG SYNE.

All dis wuh an bin tellin yuh is jus a lil taste o’ we Guyanese Crismus, a speshul part o’ Crismus is Ole Year’s Nite. Wimmens lookin like gorgeous dolls, dress to death, cars flashin by, an’ a party in nearly every adda buildin.

Up to de late 1960s it was a big ting, to dance at one o’ de big clubs an watch deh in accelerat deh in the moon, people ah tun back to house parties web evrybody paya ‘ab’ an get evrything free.

An ah hear also dat aften 3 o’clakk, wid de fete in full swing, some o’ de big clubs dus add water to de likker (for same price) believe yuh dun drunk arredy an aint gahment knu de diffrunce . . .

It duz be a good fete, though. An at midnite wen we kiss an bell an bello to welcom in de New Year, yuh know wuh yuh dus sing? ...not nutt’n from Sparrow o’ Kitch, nekkh Regare, nor de Gahyana Boom, or Bajun Sproute. We duz sing AULD LANG SYNE.

Wile we cum up in de dance halls an singin wuh de British teach, we vastly numbers dus be prayin at midnite service; an downtown, people who aint gat houses wuz in ah hall an dance al day to welcom in de New Year, yuh know wuh yuh dus sing? ...not nutt’n from Sparrow o’ Kitch, nekkh Regare, nor de Gahyana Boom, or Bajun Sproute. We duz sing AULD LANG SYNE.

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REMEMBERING CULTURAL COLLEAGUES WHO PASSED IN 2016

Francis Quamina Farrier

One of the most popular Guyanese Christmas songs is "Happy Holiday", which was recorded by The Four Lords, way back in Colonial British Guiana. The Lead singer of that Popular Singing Group, Billy Moore, died earlier this Jubilee Year. He was destitute at the time. So when you hear "Happy Holiday" by the Four Lords this Jubilee Year Christmas Season, and you hear the melodious singing voice of Billy Moore, do say a little prayer for the repose of his soul, and realize how his country, Guyana, turned its back on him, in his ‘golden’ years. Yet we can still enjoy his beautiful songs on Radio and elsewhere.

Noel Adams was a Jazz enthusiast. He worked at the Library of Radio Demerara and later at the GBC, where he produced a weekly Jazz Programme. He was also an accomplished pianist. While I knew Noel Adams for many years, we were never close Buddies. However, whenever we met, we would have long in-depth conversations about music - especially about Jazz music. I did an on-camera interview with Noel Adams some years ago, which was aired on the GTV Evening News. I had not seen Noel Adams for over two years before his passing earlier this year. However, I was told by reliable sources that when he was dying, he asked for his passing earlier this year. However, I was told by reliable sources that when he was dying, he asked for the repose of his soul, and realize how his country, Guyana, turned its back on him, in his ‘golden’ years. Yet we can still enjoy his beautiful songs on Radio and elsewhere.

Malcolm Corrissa - The Lord Canary aka The Mighty Canary - was a boyhood friend of mine. We knew each other since our pre-teen years. He was one year older than myself and was in one class ahead of me at the St. Ann’s Anglican School at Agricola on the East Bank Demerara. Over the decades, we met from time to time and would have some interesting conversations, mainly about growing up on the lower East Bank of Demerara, and also about culture - mostly about Calypso. The very last time we were in each other’s company, was at his Peter’s Hall home, on Monday, May 23, 2016.

During the more recent years of his life, we spoke on the phone at least three times every year. On May 23, he and a few other Special Elders living in the Pete’s Hall and Providence area, on the East Bank of Demerara, were being Honoured at a Jubilee Year Function at the Peter’s Hall Primary School. However, he was not present, so I went to his home located a short distance away, where he greeted me warmly. We chatted for about half an hour, and during that time, I did a brief on-camera interview with him and took a few photographs with my I-phone. That interview which turned out to be his very last, was aired on my weekly Television programme, Farrier’s Friday Feature, on HHTV Channel 9 in Guyana.

In the case of my next ‘cultural worker’, I’m actually stretching the terms of reference very much. Here’s why. All she did was play the piano since her pre-teen years - but never at any public forum. However, there was a piano in the home she occupied in Georgetown over sixty years, which she played during her younger years. She also loved to sing; one of her favourite singers was Jim Reeves. But she never became a name known as a singer in Guyana, or elsewhere for that matter. However, one of her ten children, Monty Blackmore, is a very talented musician, show producer and Theatre Lights Designer. I refer to Olive Blackmore, my Mother-in-Law, who passed away on August 23, 2016, at age 105 years. Just before her last birthday, she was paid a visit by President David Granger and Mayor Patricia Chase-Green.

Although a Trinidadian national, I have to include playwright Freddie Kissoon, who wrote many plays, including the very popular “Calabash Alley”, which I staged at the National Cultural Centre in Georgetown a few years ago. I met Freddie Kissoon in his native Trinidad about fifty years ago. He was already one of the more popular playwrights of Trinidad and Tobago.

We were friends through the decades and I even sponsored a tour to Guyana of his theatre group, The Strolling Players. They performed at the National Cultural Centre, to very appreciative audiences. Freddie died just a few months ago in his native Trinidad. One of his plays, “Doo Doo”, was performed by a school group, at this year’s National Drama Festival, at the Theatre Guild Playhouse in Georgetown, in November 2016.

I end now by remembering someone who could only be described as one of Guyana’s brightest stars - but one which sadly fell before her passing. She is Gloria David. I knew Gloria for many years. She was always a beautiful and ambitious and talented young lady.

During the mid-1970s she got involved in a small way with the activities at the Theatre Guild in Kingston, Georgetown. It was there that she and I got to know each other better, and we appeared in a few skits at the Theatre Guild Club Nights.

Gloria David possessed a great acting talent which propelled her into the movies. She starred in the highly rated Caribbean film, “The Right and the Wrong”, which was premiered at the Globe Cinema on Church Street in Georgetown, and attended by President Arthur Chung and First Lady Doreen Chung. Gloria was at the top of her game and left Guyana for Hollywood. Sadly, she did not succeed there and returned to Guyana a broken starlet. She died a destitute earlier this Jubilee Year, 2016. Her star had fallen, and like the demolished Globe cinema on Church Street in Georgetown, where her film was premiered, she is gone to the great beyond. However, for those who knew her or saw her on stage and in the movies, Gloria David will long be remembered for the heights she attained in her acting career, and the pleasure she gave to those who were fortunate to enjoy her great performances, during the period when her star shone high and bright.
Lady Sara Lou Carter passes on at 93

On Friday, December 16, 2016, Lady Sara Lou Carter of Bethesda, Maryland, died peacefully at the age of 93.

Carter was born in Wilkesboro, North Carolina on July 4, 1923, to James and Esther Harris. After graduating from Bennett College in North Carolina, she taught for a year before moving to New York, where she became a high fashion model breaking many racial barriers and paving the way for women of color that walked the runway after her. Sara Lou Harris became the first African-American model in the New York Buyers fashion show and was one of the original 12 “Branford Lovelies” of the Branford Modeling Agency, the very first licensed modeling agency for black women. Sara Lou was able to change the perception of the African American woman from a servant to a glamour icon. She then went on to appear on the cover of dozens of magazines including Ebony, Jet and Tan.

In 1958 Sara Lou met John Carter a barrister from British Guiana (now Guyana) when she visited Guyana to participate in a fashion show. John and Sara Lou were married in 1960. In 1963 John Carter was appointed as counsel and in 1966 was knighted by the Queen Elizabeth. Sara Lou Harris then became Lady Sara Lou Carter. Lady Carter was the architect of Sara’s Salon, a popular interview program in Guyana in the sixties. She also established The Sara Lou Charm School for Girls in Guyana, teaching girls about poise and proper etiquette.

In 1966, Sir John was appointed Guyana’s first ambassador to the U.S., UN and Canada and took up residence in Washington DC. Sir John and Lady Sara Lou Carter parented three children; Robyn, John and Brian.


Lady Carter is survived by her three children, several grandchildren, and close relatives.

A service was held on Thursday, December 29 at 11 a.m., at the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church, 7001 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Interment at Gate of Heaven cemetery.
IN MEMORIAM

E.R. BRAITHWAITE
Guyanese Author and Diplomat Dies at 104

Sewell Chan, New York Times

The memoir was praised for offering a sympathetic account of race and class without naïveté or excessive sentimentality.

Early in the book, Mr. Braithwaite recounts his disillusionment and struggles with joblessness after being passed over for work because of racial discrimination, contrasting his experiences in Britain with the years he had spent in the United States.

He wrote of America: "There, when prejudice is felt, it is open, obvious, blatant; the white man makes his position very clear, and the black man fights those prejudices with equal openness and fervor, using every constitutional device available to him."

He added: "The rest of the world in general and Britain in particular are prone to point an angrily critical finger at American intolerance, forgetting that in its short history as a nation it has granted to its Negro citizens more opportunities for advancement and betterment, per capita, than any other nation in the world with an indigenous Negro population."

The book was timely, arriving as a wave of migration from the West Indies and South Asia began to transform British society, and as Americans were grappling with persistent segregation. That Mr. Braithwaite, a well-educated middle-class man from the colonies, was trying in the capital of the British Empire to look past the squalor and despair of the school, was not lost on critics.

"His job as an emissary of civilization was made almost impossibly hard by the fact that the English people he dealt with still believed in their own civilization and disbelieved in his," the British poet and novelist John Wain wrote in a review of the memoir in The New York Times. "In fact, the urban industrialized world they lived in had long since robbed them of a natural way of life, plunged them into violence and hatred and robbed them of anything fit to be called a civilization."

The movie, directed by the novelist and filmmaker James Clavell, was a box-office success, largely because of its star, Mr. Poitier, whose character is named Thackeray in the movie. (The theme song, sung by

E...
DIS TIME NAH LANG TIME!
NEW VIDEOS BRING BACK VIVID MEMORIES OF "LANG TIME" IN GUYANA.

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

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

The video Link is:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgZh64gLBZi3glvvBzQz-Sg

Responses from cultural icons, Guyanese folklorists Francis Farrier, Mark Matthews and Ken Corsbie affirm the significant timely contribution of the videos. Comments include: “A wonderful bundle of delight and insight, a delightful dis time... and an apt 440 yards relay... both right up my alley... Classic pieces... these are such wonderful material for me to use in my TV show in Guyana to enlighten the youngsters what life was like back in British Guiana and early Guyana.” Political historian and culturalist, Eusi Kwayana writes: “The Matthews brothers breathed new life into the title Dis Time na lang time with inspired selection and popular nostalgia. Baad stuff!”

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