



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Symposium Sub-committee of 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary Celebration  
Committee (New York) Announces  
Golden Jubilee National Symposium Series**

*To Be Held On May 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

**BROOKLYN, New York** – April 21, 2016 - The Symposium Sub-committee of the Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York) announces the **Golden Jubilee National Symposium Series** under the theme ***Guyana at 50: Understanding our Independence Journey***. The Series provides an opportunity for Guyanese at home and abroad to examine various knowledge traditions, published and un-published research on a variety of disciplines, and matters germane to our nation's contemporary realities and future development trajectory.

The first part will be held at Arthur Chung Conference Center in Georgetown, Guyana on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm. The second part will be held at York College in Queens, New York on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. This complimentary Series is open to the general public with recommended online registration available at [www.guyfolkfest.org/guyana50/schedule](http://www.guyfolkfest.org/guyana50/schedule) or <http://celebrateguyana50thinyc.com>.

The **Golden Jubilee National Symposium Series** facilitates cross-disciplinary discussions on four interrelated questions: *Who are we? What has been our journey? What can we become? How can we get there?* Presenters will include writers, policy makers, graduate students, musicians, university professors, civic advocates, and others from the community. The diverse program includes a *"Drums and Riddims"* performance panel to celebrate drum and fusion experiences in Guyanese musical life; and a digital production that features photography of Anette Arjoon-Martins with music by Dave Martins in both Georgetown and New York.

Panel discussions will focus on topical issues such as *"Contesting Guyana's Foodways"*, *"Contemporary Security and Sovereignty"*, *"Musical Creativity in the Post-Independence Years"*, and presentations on *"The Glamorization of Alcohol in Contemporary Guyanese*

*Chutney Music*” and *“Black Midas Reflects: Jan Carew on Guyanese Culture, Politics and Environments”*, to name a few. Presenters in the series will hail from Guyana, the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.

The Symposium Series also will have the benefit of viewing seven digital online exhibitions being produced by students from Ohio University and the University of Guyana. The seven are: (1) Ancient Guyana, (2) The Peopling of Guyana, (3) The Guyanese Diaspora, (4) Guyanese musical creativity in New York, USA, (5) Guyana from World War II (focus on oil exploration), (6) Guyana National Service, and (7) The Digital Tent (in which there will be a link to National Bibliography).

Moreover, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith of the University at Albany, State University of New York chairs the Sub-committee that is planning and executing the Series. In describing the importance of this educational component, Professor Griffith said, “The Golden Jubilee National Symposium Series affords us an opportunity to examine our history and traditions, the evolution of Guyanese thought and their contributions to Guyana’s development.”

According to the Symposium Chair, the series also provides a moment to think about how these processes and ideas can inform the next 50 years of our nation’s development evolution. As such, the papers, panels, presentations, performances and exhibitions generated will represent a substantial multidisciplinary synthesis of the Guyanese experience and aspirations 50 years after independence. These materials, along with related initiatives and the public’s engagement, could prove useful in advancing national development strategies.

One of the aims of the Symposia Series is to leave a record and a legacy for posterity. The record will include synthesis/summaries/declarations from the Symposium Rapporteur; audio and visual recordings of presentations, performances, and complementary activities; and still photographs. Among other things, a *“Bibliography of Guyanese Writers and Writings about Guyana”* and a compilation of the *“Political and Social Expressions of Eusi Kwayana”* have already been submitted to the University of Guyana Library.

The Golden Jubilee National Symposia Series is organized by the Symposium Sub-committee of the Guyana’s 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York), in partnership with the Academic Grounding Working Group of the National Commemoration Commission, and the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.

For more information, please visit [www.guyfolkfest.org/guyana50](http://www.guyfolkfest.org/guyana50).

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