

# GUYANA FOLK

July 30,  
2018  
Vol 8  
Issue 7

*And Culture*



**NEW VENUE, EXCITING NEW SHOWS**

# FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY 2018

**CHILDREN'S COSTUME PARADE**

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## EDITORIAL

On your marks..... get set..... go. Yes folks, the Guyana Folk Festival fever is certainly in the air. We are indeed going places. Please be aware of our new location for Family Fun Day. We have moved to the spacious venue at PACPLEX OUTDOOR COMPLEX at 1500 Paerdegat Avenue North and Seaview Avenue in Canarsie Brooklyn. This new venue and extended time to 10.00 p.m.will allow us to showcase a wider range of creative expressions throughout the day.

The Children's Village will open at 11:00 am with the Kids Costume Band Parade featuring the costumes created by the 2018 Caribbean Heritage Workshops Series. We have several events organized for children and their families. One will be a workshop on body painting by Steve Douglas of Bravo Arts, Guyana.

The Summer Workshop Series (SWS) one of our signature event has come to a close and all focus is geared towards the other upcoming events. Since its inception, the Guyana Cultural Association has been at the forefront in promoting education and cultural activities motivating the youth in the community to strive for personal and academic excellence in various areas of Dance, Music, Performing Arts and STEM programs.

Every July for the past ten years, GCA has placed emphasis on engaging and energizing young Guyanese immigrants, as well as Caribbean American youth through programs intended to enhance their knowledge of their multi-cultural heritage. GCA's SWS is a fitting example of how youth are given the opportunity to participate in the literacy workshops and to learn about their culture through master classes. With the support of New York Council Member Mathieu Eugene, Jumaane Williams, Alan Maisel, Materials for the Arts, Metroplus Health Plan, Edward Isaacs of Crayola Company, Con Edison and many other individuals and humanitarian support groups, allowed our youth to participate in steel pan, stagecraft, aerodynamics, cooking and other exciting programs. At the SWS closing ceremony, GCA honored exceptional students and the staff. As we celebrate our 17th Anniversary, we will continue to laud our youth, and encourage them to excel in whatever future path they choose.

In this issue read President Vibert Cambridge's analysis of Folk Festival In Brooklyn; the young Guyanese actor Jelani Aladdin's claim to fame and his message to young people by Lear Matthews and all of the upcoming scheduled events for the season: The Family Fun Day; Children's Village; Kwe Kwe Night; the Literary Hang; the GCA Awards Ceremony (by invitation) and much more.

We hope that you will join us at these memorable events as we continue to celebrate various dimensions of our cultural heritage in the Diaspora.

Stay Tuned.

*Edgar Henry.*

July Editor

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

# 2018 EVENTS CALENDAR

3

## CARIBBEAN HERITAGE SUMMER WORKSHOP SERIES

**JULY 2 - AUGUST 10 2018**

St. Stephen's Church Auditorium  
2806 Newkirk Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11226

## GCA AWARDS

**WED. AUGUST 29, 2018**

Brooklyn Borough Hall  
209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226  
INVITATION ONLY

## KWE KWE NITE

**FRI. AUGUST 31, 2018**

**8.00 P.M.**

St. Stephen's Church Auditorium  
2806 Newkirk Ave. (E28 - E29 Sts.)  
Brooklyn, NY 11226.

ADMISSION: **\$30.00**

## LITERARY HANG

**SAT. SEPTEMBER 1, 2018**

9.00 A.M.-3.00 P.M.

St. Stephen's Church Auditorium  
2806 Newkirk Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11226

ADMISSION: **\$20.00**

# FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**

**PARTY 'TILL  
10.00 P.M.**

**EXCITING NEW VENUE**

**PACPLEX POOLSIDE COMPLEX**

**1500 PAERDEGAT AVE. N. (CANARSIE) BROOKLYN, NY 11236**

**STAGE SHOW STARTS AT 5.00 P.M.**

**COME OUT & SUPPORT THE KIDS, STAY FOR THE SHOW & PARTY**

M.C.s - MALCOLM FERREIRA & ROSE OCTOBER-EDUN

**Featuring: Gavin Mendonca & Young Bill Rogers**

- Classique Dance Company NYC & Friends.
- Randy Ramdin & Recklöz Tassa Group
- Steve Douglas Body Art of Guyanese Folk Characters.
- Flavorful, delicious Guyanese Cuisine on sale

**Dancing to Flantis & the Ninja Band**

**• Adrian Dutchin • GCA Kwe Kwe Ensemble**

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: MATHIEU EUGENE, JUMAANE WILLIAMS, ALAN MAISEL  
• NY TUTORIAL SUPPORT GROUP

• THE BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association New York Tri-State Chapter





# HOW THINGS GOING FOR FOLK FESTIVAL 2018 IN BROOKLYN?

*by Dr. Vibert Cambridge, A.A.*

This is the time of the year when Guyanese and their friends in “Region 11” are beginning to think about the Labor Day weekend—summer’s last long holiday weekend. This is the time of the year when Guyanese in the diaspora and at home are beginning to ask, “How things going for Folk Festival 2018 in Brooklyn?”

Labor Day weekend in Brooklyn is a significant moment in New York City’s cultural life. And for the past 17 years, the Guyana Folk Festival in Brooklyn has had a special place in this long weekend.

Labor Day weekend also marks the end of a season of summer festivals organized by the Guyanese diaspora in North America. This season starts in Atlanta, Georgia and for many, ends with the Guyana Folk Festival in Brooklyn, New York.

## **Atlanta**

The Guyana Association of Atlanta launched the 2018 season with the Memorial Weekend Celebrations with three events – The Welcome Party on Friday, May, 25th; Family Fun Day at the Hallford Stadium, Memorial College Ave., Clarkson, GA on Sunday, May 27.; and the annual Independence Day Ball which held at Grande Royale Events Center, the night of Sunday, May 27.

A decade ago, Guyana’s Stabroek News offered the following observation about the 2008 Atlanta celebrations.

Vendors and Guests from as far away as the UK, Canada and several states across the U.S. Families usually arrive at the picnic by 11am and hang out all day to meet greet and rebuild old relationships with long lost loves and friends. There are usually booths for kids, friendly amateur games of soccer and cricket; usually between teams from NY and Georgia, plaiting of the Maypole by Guyanese kids, cultural shows and domino competitions. (Stabroek News, May 2, 2008)

That transnational and intergenerational exchange characterizes Guyanese summer festivals in North America.

Since Georgia kicked off the 2018 season in May, Guyanese around the world, in New York, Washington D.C., London, South Florida, and Amsterdam, have organized boat rides, family reunions, fetes, fashion shows, musical shows, cook outs, and backyard parties to enjoy the summer season. In the process, families are reinvigorated, and the bonds that connect diaspora and homeland are nourished.

## **Toronto**

The first Monday in August is a provincial holiday in Ontario. It is Simcoe Day in honor of the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada. In Toronto, this is “Caribana” weekend and Toronto’s Last Lap Lime is a destination in the Guyanese summer festivals circuit. Last Lap Lime is a fundraising project and has been organized s by the alumni associations of Bishop’s High School, Queen’s College, St. Rose’s, and St. Stanislaus since 1996. Here too, Guyanese and their friends come. They come from all over the world to catch up, listen to and dance to good live music, and savor really outstanding Guyanese food and beverage.

Last Lap Lime 2018 will be held on Monday, August 6 from noon to 9:00 p.m. at Woodbridge Fair Grounds, 100 Porter Avenue, Woodbridge (Kipling and Highway 7).

So, how are plans going for Folk Festival Week 2018 in Brooklyn, New York?

## **Brooklyn, New York**

Things are shaping up for another entertaining and memorable season. There will be a few new things!





# LAST LAP LIME

## MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2018

NON STOP ENTERTAINMENT ALL DAY

1:00PM TO 9:00PM

# WOODBIDGE FAIR GROUNDS

100 PORTER AVENUE WOODBRIDGE (KIPLING & HWY 7)



TERRY GAJRAJ



DJ TEE CEE



MARISSA



Victor Shim & Surefire



AFRICAN DANCE TROUP



FUH FUN CANADA'S HOTTEST CARIBBEAN BAND

New Vendors Signed up Limited Space Remaining

ALL DAY KIDS AREA Games | Face-Painting Story-Telling Lots of Prizes

New VIP Bar Area with Table Service

INCREASED & SHADED BAR AREA

YOUR FAVOURITE CARIBBEAN FOOD MORE CHOICES



ADM: \$15 In Advance Before August 6th \* \$25 at Gate

(See Our Website for Ticket Outlets)

Tickets are available at our website using PayPal

[www.LastLapLime.com](http://www.LastLapLime.com)



Great Summers Start Here

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

# ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY CARIBBEAN HERITAGE SUMMER WORKSHOP SERIES

Music • Dance • Literacy • Arts & Craft • Stem • Performing Arts • Digital Production



**A SAFE, FUN,  
CREATIVE  
EXPERIENCE**



**AGES 6-14  
REGISTER  
NOW!**

## MONDAY-FRIDAY

8.00 A.M. - 5.00 P.M.

- ACTIVITIES PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF EXPRESSION
- STAFF IS ENTHUSIASTIC, WELL PREPARED & COMPETENT

**BRING A GOOD ATTITUDE • A SMILE • A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT**

**718-209-5207 OR 800-774-5762**

**ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH AUDITORIUM**  
2806 NEWKIRK AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11226



GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.  
**GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY FUN DAY**  
**CHILDREN'S VILLAGE**  
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 2, 2018**

**KIDS COSTUME BAND PARADE**  
**STARTS 11.00 A.M.**  
 ASSEMBLE BY 10.00 A.M.  
 CANARSIE PARK.  
 REMSEN & SEAVIEW AVENUES  
 PARADE LEAVES AT 11.00 A.M.  
 ROUTE: SEAVIEW AVENUE N. TO PAERDEGAT AVENUE N.  
 TO PACPLEX COMPLEX

**Kidsfest** • EXCITING SHOW  
 • ATTRACTIVE PRIZES

- Best Display Costume Competition
- Singing & Dance Competition
- Folk Games
- Arts & Craft
- Storytelling
- Face Painting depicting Caribbean Folk Characters
- Bring Your Swimwear for Aquatic Games (Lifeguards on duty).

**PACPLEX POOLSIDE COMPLEX**  
 1500 PAERDEGAT AVE. N. (CANARSIE) BROOKLYN, NY 11236

**KIDS - \$5.**  
**PARENTS - \$15**

**KIDS STAGE SHOW : 12.30 P.M.- 4.30 P.M.**  
 Costume Band Theme  
**"Spirit of our Festivals"**

TO VIEW & PURCHASE COSTUMES - VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.guyfolkfest.org](http://www.guyfolkfest.org) Guyana Cultural Association Facebook page  
**REGISTER TO ENTER COMPETITIONS CALL 718 209 5207**

**NEW VENUE**  
**PACPLEX IN CANARSIE**  
 EXTENDED TIME TO 10.00 P.M.

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**THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: MATHIEU EUGENE, JUMAANE WILLIAMS, ALAN MAISEL  
 • NY TUTORIAL SUPPORT GROUP • THE BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association New York Tri-State Chapter



GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

**FOLK FESTIVAL**  
**2018 EVENTS CALENDAR**

**CARIBBEAN HERITAGE**  
**SUMMER WORKSHOP**  
**SERIES**  
**JULY 2 - AUGUST 10 2018**  
 St. Stephen's Church Auditorium  
 2806 Newkirk Ave. J Brooklyn, NY 11226

**KWE KWE NITE**  
**FRI. AUGUST 31, 2018**  
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**GCA AWARDS**  
**WED. AUGUST 29, 2018**  
 Brooklyn Borough Hall  
 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY  
 11226  
 INVITATION ONLY

**LITERARY HANG**  
**SAT. SEPTEMBER 1, 2018**  
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**1500 PAERDEGAT AVE. N.**  
**(CANARSIE) BROOKLYN, NY 11236**  
**STAGE SHOW STARTS AT 5.00 P.M.**  
**PARTY 'TILL 10.00 P.M.**

**COME OUT & SUPPORT THE KIDS, STAY FOR THE SHOW & PARTY**  
**ROADSIDE PARKING AVAILABLE**

M.C.s - MALCOLM FERREIRA & ROSE OCTOBER-EDUN

**Featuring: Gavin Mendonca**  
**& Young Bill Rogers**

**ADULTS:**  
**\$15.00**  
**KIDS: \$5.00**

- Classique Dance Company NYC & Friends.
- Randy Ramdin & Reeklizz Tassa Group
- Steve Douglas Body Art of Guyanese Folk Characters.
- Flavorful, delicious Guyanese Cuisine on sale

**Dancing to Flantis & the Ninja Band**  
**• Adrian Dutchin • GCA Kwe Kwe Ensemble**

**TURN OVER FOR KIDS COSTUME PARADE**  
**& CHILDREN'S VILLAGE INFORMATION**

Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. presents:

**Come out and enjoy yourself with your family!**

**FAMILY FUN DAY**

**Donation:**  
**\$15** before 4PM  
**\$20** after 4PM  
 Kids under 10 FREE

**SUN. MAY 27**  
**12PM-9PM**

Hallford Stadium, 3789 Memorial College Ave. Clarkson, GA 30021

**Plus!**  
 Caribbean Dancers  
 Tassa Drummers  
 Netball & More!

**DJ Chigga**

**Featuring:**  
 Terry Cajraj, Kenne Blessin,  
 Adrian Dutchin,  
 Melissa "Vanilla" Roberts  
 Anthony Malvo & Onikha Joseph

**Alison Hinds**

**For more info:** Carl Lashley 240-350-5879 | Merlyn Osborne 678-913-4948  
 Claud London 770-335-9695 | Marcus Gordon 470-258-6184

*See you there!*



# GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL 2018

**(July 2 to September 2, 2018)**

The 2018 Folk Festival season has already started. It started with the Caribbean Summer Heritage Workshop Series on July 2, 2018 and will end with Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 2, 2018. Here is an update on the workshop series and available details on the remainder of the season's signature events.

## Caribbean Heritage Summer Workshop Series

**(Guyana Arts and Cultural Center,  
St. Stephen's Church Auditorium,  
2806 Newkirk Avenue,  
Brooklyn, NY 11226**

Now in its 10th year, the workshops offer children between the ages of 6 and 14 an integrated curriculum which uses the arts to study and showcase themes in Caribbean heritage. Last year, the theme was Guyana's indigenous heritage. This year, the workshops are drawing upon the festival arts to explore Ma'iupe, the heritage of working together in the Guyanese experience.

The workshops have always benefitted from the involvement of Guyanese artists resident in New York in the delivery of the curriculum. An internship program with Guyanese artists resident in Guyana has been in place for the last three years. The impact of the 2018 interns; Clinton Duncan, Mwanza Glenn and Paul Charles is already evident. Students are already in rehearsals for the costumed stage presentation "The Campfire Chronicles"- the centerpiece of the Summer Workshop Series Closing Ceremony scheduled for noon on Friday, August 10, 2018.

The 2018 workshops have already developed designs and started to fabricate costumes for the Folk Festival Kids Costume Band - "Spirit of Our Festivals." The designs are inspired by Guyana's national festivals, among them Mashramani, Diwali, Masquerade, and the Dragon Dance. The costume band will perform at the Folk Festival's inaugural Kids Costume Band Parade, scheduled for 11:00 am on Sunday, September 2, 2018.













GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY FUN DAY

# CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

SUNDAY,  
SEPT. 2, 2018

# Kidsfest

- EXCITING SHOW
- ATTRACTIVE PRIZES

- Best Display Costume Competition
- Singing & Dance Competition
- Arts & Craft
- Storytelling
- Face Painting depicting Caribbean Folk Characters
- Bring Your Swimwear for Aquatic Games (Lifeguards on duty).

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**KIDS STAGE SHOW : 12.30 P.M.- 4.30 P.M.**  
Costume Band Theme

**"Spirit of our Festivals"**

**STARTS 11.00 A.M.**

ASSEMBLE BY 10.00 A.M. CANARSIE PARK:

**REMSEN & SEAVIEW AVENUES**

PARADE LEAVES AT 11.00 A.M

ROUTE: SEAVIEW AVENUE N. TO PAERDEGAT AVENUE N.  
TO PACPLEX COMPLEX

**KIDS  
COSTUME  
BAND PARADE**

**KIDS - \$5.  
PARENTS - \$15.**

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CALL 718 209 5207 or 631 829 8341

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: MATHIEU EUGENE, JUMAANE WILLIAMS, ALAN MAISEL

• NY TUTORIAL SUPPORT GROUP • THE BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni Association New York Tri-State Chapter



Council on the Arts



# GCA AWARDS CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2018  
BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL, 6.00 P.M.,  
BY INVITATION ONLY

## 2018 GCA HONOREES

### EUGENE WILLIAMS, ROGER HINDS TO RECEIVE TOP HONORS

The annual awards ceremony is always held in Brooklyn Borough Hall on a Wednesday and this launches Folk Festival week. The ornate chamber provides the ambience for the annual moment when the Guyana Cultural Association

of New York, Inc. recognizes achievements and encourages the aspirations of young Guyanese. In 2018, we celebrate 25 persons who were nominated by their peers as embodying the spirit of solidarity/working together along with the core values GCA considers when determining awards: originality, scope, impact/influence, contribution to harmony, innovation, and creativity.

In 2018, most of the awardees reside in Guyana.

In addition to congratulating the 2018 awardees, people attending the ceremony will also experience performances from the Caribbean Summer Heritage Workshops Series, interact with body art created by Steve Douglas of Bravo Arts, enjoy the music of the Kwe Kwe ensemble, and savor Guyanese finger foods.

Because of space limitations, the Awards Ceremony is a "By invitation only" event.



**Eugene Williams**  
Lifetime Achievement Award



**Roger Hinds**  
Exemplary Award



HONOR LIST



**Bibi Khan Azeez**  
Performing Arts



**Dr. Terrence Blackman**  
Educator, Change Maker



21 TO BE  
HONORED  
AT AWARDS  
CELEBRATION

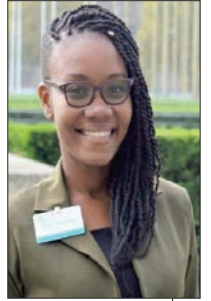
WE RECOGNIZE  
YOUTH, ADULTS AND  
ENTITIES WHO HAVE  
EXCELLED IN  
EDUCATION,  
RESILIENCE  
COMMUNITY SERVICE,  
THE ARTS AND  
INNOVATIVE DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGY.



**Guyana United Artists**  
Visual Arts



**Carlo Lachmansingh**  
Cultural Enabler



**Marva Langevine**  
Youth



**Winslow Craig**  
Visual Arts



**Jubilanté Cutting**  
Youth



**Ira Lewis**  
Cultural Enabler



**Aubrey Mann**  
Performing Arts



**Steve Douglas**  
Youth



**Anasie Fredericks**  
Youth



**Compton Hodge**  
Performing Arts



**Winfield James**  
Festival Arts

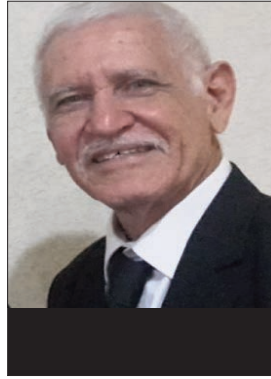


**Nalia Rahaman**  
Youth



**Pandit Ramlall**  
Religious, Cultural Enabler

We congratulate and introduce the 2018 Awardees



**Bernard Ramsey**  
Creative Arts



**Subraj Singh**  
Writer, Theatre



**Natalia Squires**  
Youth



Unit of  
Allied Arts

Unit of Allied Arts  
Education Enabler



Con Edison  
Cultural Enabler

THE WINNERS  
**THE GODFREY CHIN PRIZE**  
FOR HERITAGE JOURNALISM



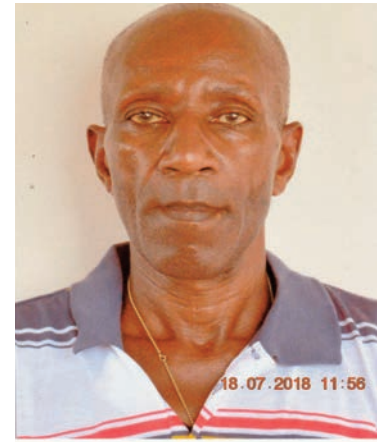
**Ms. Gaitri Pagrach Chandra**  
(First Prize)

For "The Wedding" sequences in Kiskadee Days. The sequences were published weekly on Facebook from Friday, May 25, 2018 to Friday, June 29, 2018.



**Ms. Sherene Noble**  
(Second Prize)

For six articles published in the blog: "rootsandeduculture.wordpress.com."  
1. Discordance, Philosophies and Education 2. Democracy, Authoritarianism and Reform 3. Scholarships, The Arts and Disinvestment 4. Social Capital, Resistance and Reform . The articles were published between April and June 2018.



**Dr. Owen Ifill**  
(Third Prize)

For the CD Dem Seh. According to Dr. Owen Ifill, "The CD Dem Seh is actually the outgrowth of a book of the same name which was written shortly after the "reign of terror " period in Buxton.



# ANYWAY SANCHO CALL MEH ANYWAY,

ANYWAY, ANYWAY,  
IF AH DAM AN ALL,  
ANYWAY

This a joyous night as Guyanese and their guests celebrate the music, dance, food, and camaraderie of the Kwe Kwe experience.

You are going to have a fine time!

GUYANA CULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

## Kwe Kwe Nite

**FRI SEPT 31 2018  
8.00 P.M.**

**ST. STEPHEN'S AUDITORIUM  
2806 NEWKIRK AVENUE,  
BRLYN, NY 11226**

**\$30.00  
ENTRANCE**



# LITERARY HANG

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

(Guyana Arts and Cultural Center)

**St. Stephen's Church Auditorium**

**2806 Newkirk Avenue,**

**Brooklyn, NY 11226.**

**Saturday, September 1**

**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m)**

Now in its 15th year, the Literary Hang is the longest running Guyanese literary festival in New York. This year, the festival is organized around the theme "Mai'upe" working together ... this is what the nation needs now more than ever; emphasis on cooperation, its founding principle."

As of August 1, there are six confirmed presenters:

- **Gaitri Pagrach Chandra** - Kiskadee Days
- **Carmen Barclay Subryan** (Stepping on Cracks)
- **Kimani Nehusi**  
("A People's Political History of Guyana"  
(1938-1964))
- **Marjory Jones**  
(Promoting Community Mental Health in Guyana)
- **Special Session:**  
**Francis Q. Farrier.**
- **Clinton Duncan**

**General admission: \$20:00**

with breakfast served

(entry fee will render one chit)

until the traditional breakfast time in Guyana, i.e., 12noon.

Breakfast: traditional Guyanese breakfast: bake and saltfish, fried plantain (carrier food) with one drink; additional drinks at cost.

**Children up to 12 years old free admission with \$5:00 to be paid for breakfast.**

Contact Dr. Juliet Emanuel (jae-manuel@cs.com) for information on reading, book sales, and the Literary Hang tent at Family Fun Day. ,



# **FAMILY FUN DAY**

## **PACPLEX POOLSIDE COMPLEX**

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**

17

**1500 PAERDEGAT AVE. N. (CANARSIE)  
BROOKLYN, NY 11236  
11:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.**

The season's finale, Family Fun Day, will be held at a new venue – PACPLEX POOLSIDE COMPLEX, 1500 PAERDEGAT AVE. N. (CANARSIE) BROOKLYN, NY 11236.

The MCs are MALCOLM FERREIRA & Dr. ROSE OCTOBER-EDUN

This new venue and extended time will allow us to showcase a larger range of creative expressions across the day.

### **CHILDREN'S VILLAGE**

The Children's Village will open at 11:00 am with the Kids Costume Band Parade featuring the costumes created by the 2018 Caribbean Heritage Workshops Series.

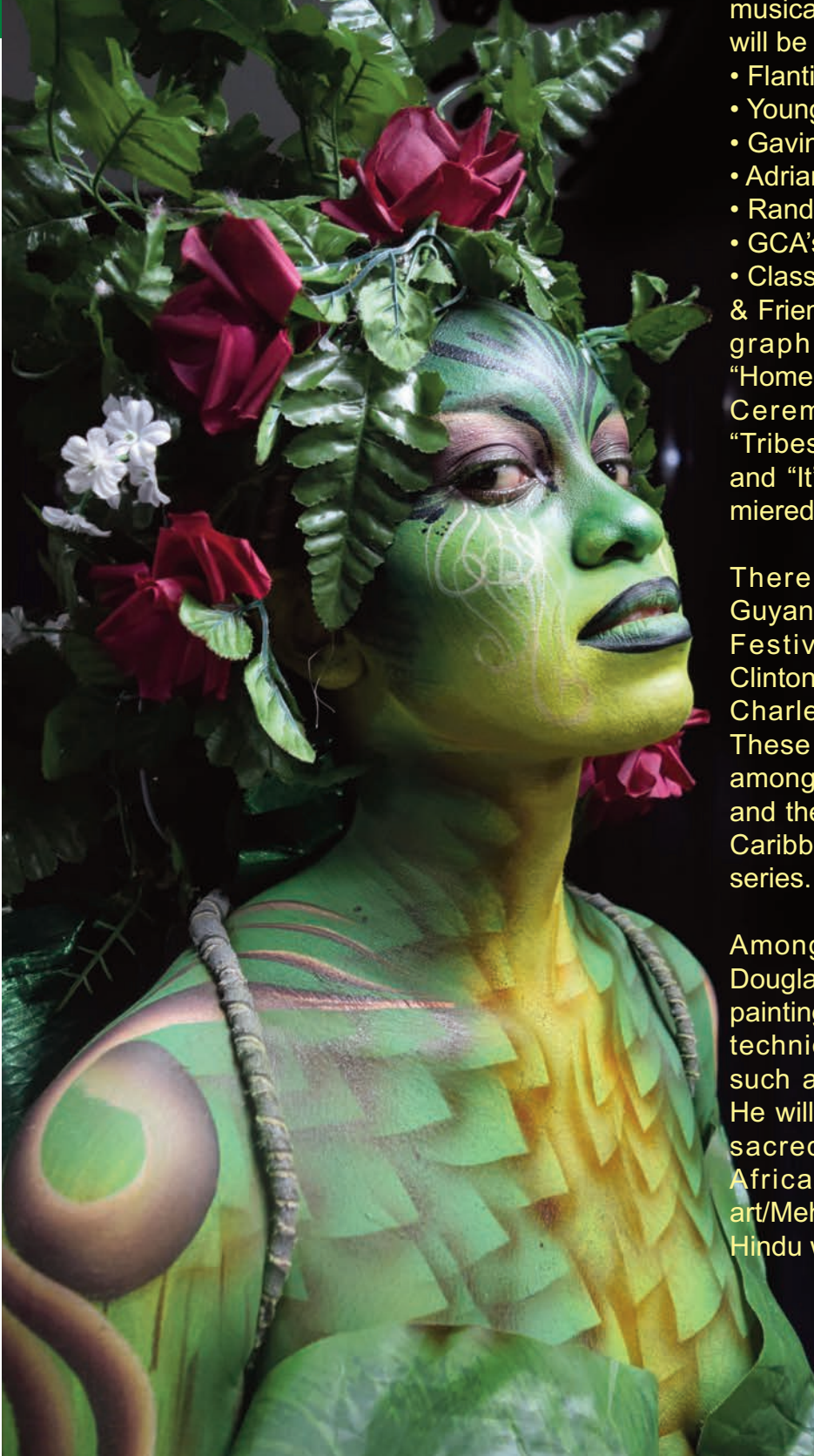
Across the early afternoon, several events will be organized for children and their families.

One will be a workshop on body painting by Steve Douglas of Bravo Arts, Guyana.



# FAMILY FUN DAY

## FACE PAINTING



The extended time will allow for more live performances. The Stage Show will start at 5:00 pm. Among the confirmed musical performers on September 2 will be

- Flantis and the Ninja Band,
  - Young Bill Rogers,
  - Gavin Mendonca,
  - Adrian Dutchin,
  - Randy Ramdin & Recklöz Tassa Group,
  - GCA's Kwe Kwe Ensemble
  - Classique Dance Company NYC
- & Friends will premiere four new choreographies during the 2018 season. "Home" will be premiered at the Awards Ceremony, Wednesday, August 29. "Tribes of Guyana," "Ethnic Vibration," and "It's a Caribbean Thing" will be premiered during the Stage Show.

There are new faces this year from Guyana who are behind the 2018 Folk Festival season. Among them are Clinton Duncan, Mwanza Glenn and Paul Charles. They are the 2018 Interns. These three Guyana-based artists are among Guyana's leading festival artists and their impact is already evident in the Caribbean Heritage Summer Workshop series.

Among the other new faces is Steve Douglas of Bravo Arts. He will use body painting and special effects makeup techniques to bring to life characters such as Ole Higue and Masacuraman. He will also use Henna to showcase the sacred Andinkra symbols from West Africa at Kwe Kwe Night. Henna art/Mehindi is popular in some Guyanese Hindu weddings.





Roger Hinds (Young Bill Rogers), the recipient of GCA 2018 Exemplary Award, will give his first Guyana Folk Festival performance. The multi-timed National Calypso, Soca, and Chutney Monarch is expected to perform his own repertoire and pay tribute to his father's pioneering recording session with the RCA Bluebird label in New Jersey in 1935. With that recording session, Bill Rogers became the first Guyanese recording artist.

Another first visit will be Gavin Mendonca, fresh from the 2018 World of Music, Art and Dance (WOMAD) festival in the UK where he performed from his unique style of music: Creole Rock. His recent album "Creole Rock: The Beginning" is a celebration of Guyana's folk songs.

### RECOGNITIONS

We, the members of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. recognize the support we have received from the following: New York State Council on the Arts Fly Jamaica Airways; Department of Culture, Youth, and Sport, Guyana; Roy Singh of SCB World Realty; Con Edison; German's Restaurant; Metroplus Health Plan; HealthFirst Health Plan; Eddie Isaacs - Crayola, New York City Council Members Mathieu Eugene, Jumaane Williams and Alan Maisel, Material for the Arts, German's Restaurant, MoneyGram Worldwide, Guiding Light Construction; Tutorial NY Support Group; The BHS Alumni Association, New York Tri-State Chapter, Moneygram.

The summer events organized by the Guyanese diaspora allow for intergenerational conversations, sharing, and fun. We, the members of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York are proud of our contributions and look forward to welcoming you to Brooklyn, New York.



Gavin Mendonca



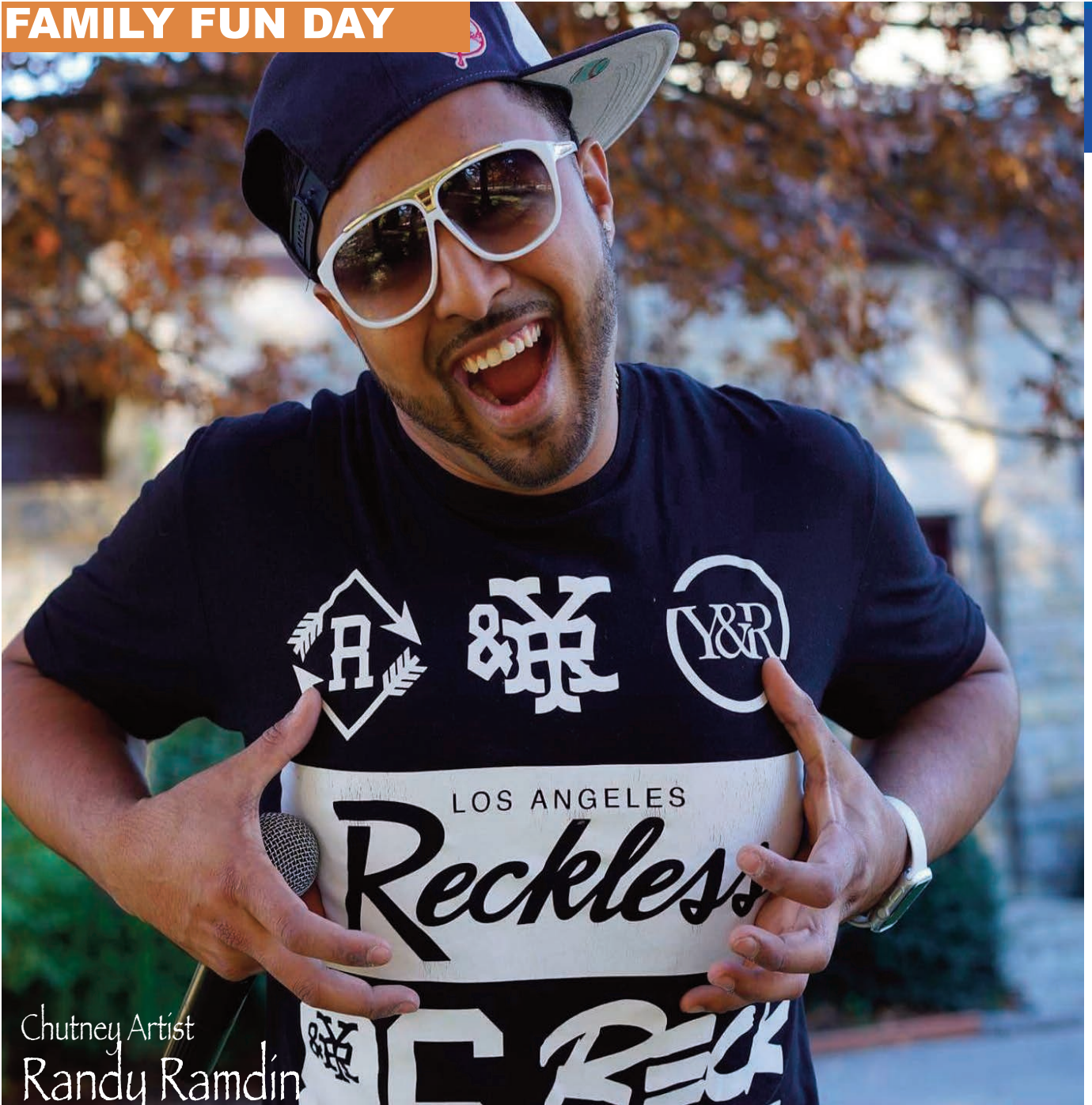
Roger Hinds





Soca Artist  
Adrian Dutchin





Chutney Artist  
Randy Ramdin

& the Recklez Tassa Drummers





22

FAMILY FUN DAY



# Classique

DANCE COMPANY NYC & FRIENDS



BISHOPS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NY TRI-STATE CHAPTER

Tickets

\$15

Jackie S. (917) 494-7876  
Jackie C. (646) 734-2149  
Audrey (516) 815-2907  
Or Buy Tickets  
online at  
bhsnytristate.com

Music by  
DJ Flexx



Music by  
DJ  
Anonymous



MENU:  
Caribbean  
Cuisine

# LABOR DAY WEEKEND Brunch CRUISE

Saturday September 1st

EMPIRE CRUISES – LIBERTY BELLE

BROOKLYN ARMY TERMINAL, 140-58<sup>TH</sup> ST BROOKLYN NY 11220

BOARDING 10:30AM . DEPARTS 11:00 SHARP!



BHSAA | PO BOX 02-0039 | Brooklyn NY 11212 | bhsaanytristate.com



# FABULOUS!

## CLOSING CEREMONY THE BEST EVER

by Dr. Juliet Emanuel

Use a picture. It's worth a thousand words. That expression in its variant forms comes to mind for this photo essay.

The August 10th, 2018 stage presentation and the exhibition of work by the children of SWS has been called the best ever.

When the curtains opened, tears and spontaneous applause flowed from an intergenerational audience, including the instructors, moved by the sight of children simply dressed in white tee shirts and leggings standing confidently against a luminescent background of a softly tropical garden, twittering birds included, and small buildings.

The children burst into song and the entire Showcase, meant to demonstrate what the program of Arts in the Community had been about during the previous six weeks, enthralled the appreciative crowd.

Even very young children from the audience tried to get on the stage. Cameras were out in full force. The costumes, and particularly those for the upcoming Family Fun Day Children's Costume Parade, were, in a word, brilliant.

The entire event sparkled. And who did not want to be a part of the action!







Costumes Band

## “Spirit of our Festivals”

depicting our Festival Arts: Deepavali, Phagwah, Easter, Mashramani.

These costumes will be displayed on Sunday September 2,  
during the Family Day Kids Festival Costume Parade.

Call us: 718 209 5207 to purchase one for your child.

**BACK LINE COSTUMES - \$60.00**

**FRONT LINE COSTUME - \$75.00**





Phagwah, Deepavali, Kwe Kwe Celebrations



GCA Kids' Costume Band

## "Spirit of our Festival Arts"

**PARADE - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 STARTS 11.00 A.M.**

ASSEMBLE BY 10.00 A.M. AT CANARSIE PARK: REMSEN & SEAVIEW AVENUES

PARADE LEAVES AT 11.00 A.M - ROUTE: SEAVIEW AVENUE N. TO PAERDEGAT AVENUE N. TO PACPLEX COMPLEX

27



*Deepavali: From Darkness Comes Light!*



*Mashramani: We Come Out to Celebrate*

**BACK LINE  
\$60.00  
FRONT LINE  
\$75.00**

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Costume
- Water
- Snack



*Phagwali: winter is over and nature rejoices*



*"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"*

# FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

## DIRECTIONS TO PACPLEX

1500 PAERDEGAT AVE. N. (CANARSIE)  
BROOKLYN, NY 11236

### BY CAR:

FROM QUEENS & LONG ISLAND

Take Belt Parkway W to  
Exit 13: Rockaway Parkway  
Take Rockaway Parkway to  
L on to Seaview Avenue to  
Paerdegat Avenue N  
to PACPLEX  
(Street Parking Available)

BROOKLYN:

N along Ralph Avenue then  
L onto Flatlands Avenue  
Stay to the left and make a  
R onto Paerdegat Avenue N  
to PACPLEX

East 80th Street  
L onto Avenue N  
(Street Parking on Paerdegat Avenue)

South along Remsen Avenue  
to Seaview Avenue,  
Right to Paerdegat Avenue N  
(Street Parking available)

### BY BUS:

**Connect to the B103:**

Exit at Avenue M & E80TH Street  
Walk one block to Avenue N  
Walk west on Avenue N to  
Paerdegat N to PACPLEX?

### BY SUBWAY

**Connect to the #2 and #5 trains**

Take the #2 or #5 to the last stop at  
Flatbush Junction  
- Take the 103 to Canarsie and stop  
at Avenue M and E.80th Street.  
Walk one block on E80th to Avenue N.  
Walk south on Ave. N to PACPLEX.

**Connect to the #3 and #4 trains**

- Take the #3 or #4 to Utica & Eastern  
Parkway.  
- Take the B17 bus to Seaview Avenue  
- Get off at Seaview & Remsen, walk 7  
short blocks along Seaview to  
Paerdegat N. and PACPLEX.

**Connect to the #3 and #4 trains**

- **Transfer to the #2 or #5 at Franklin**  
Take the #2 or #5 to the last stop at  
Flatbush Junction  
- Take the 103 to Canarsie and stop  
at Avenue M and E.80th Street.  
Walk one block on E80th to Avenue N.  
Walk south on Ave. N to PACPLEX.

**LOOK OUT FOR SPECIAL MINI BUS TRANSPORTATION  
FROM MAJOR SUBWAY STOPS TO PACPLEX**



# The Association for Stewartville Affairs



invites you to its

## Pre-Labor Day

# 7 CURRY Q



### Friday, August 31, 2018

at  
**E & R Rental Hall**

**1014 E. 92 St. Bklyn. bet. Foster & Farragut**

**9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.**



**Music By  
DJ Shaka Zulu**

**Donation: \$25  
(includes food)  
\$\$\$ Cash Bar \$\$\$**

**For Ticket Information:  
Y. Brathwaite: 917- 392-5078  
D. Wallerson: 732-397-1164  
C. Wilson: 917-991-2579  
W. Baker: 347-499-5220**



30

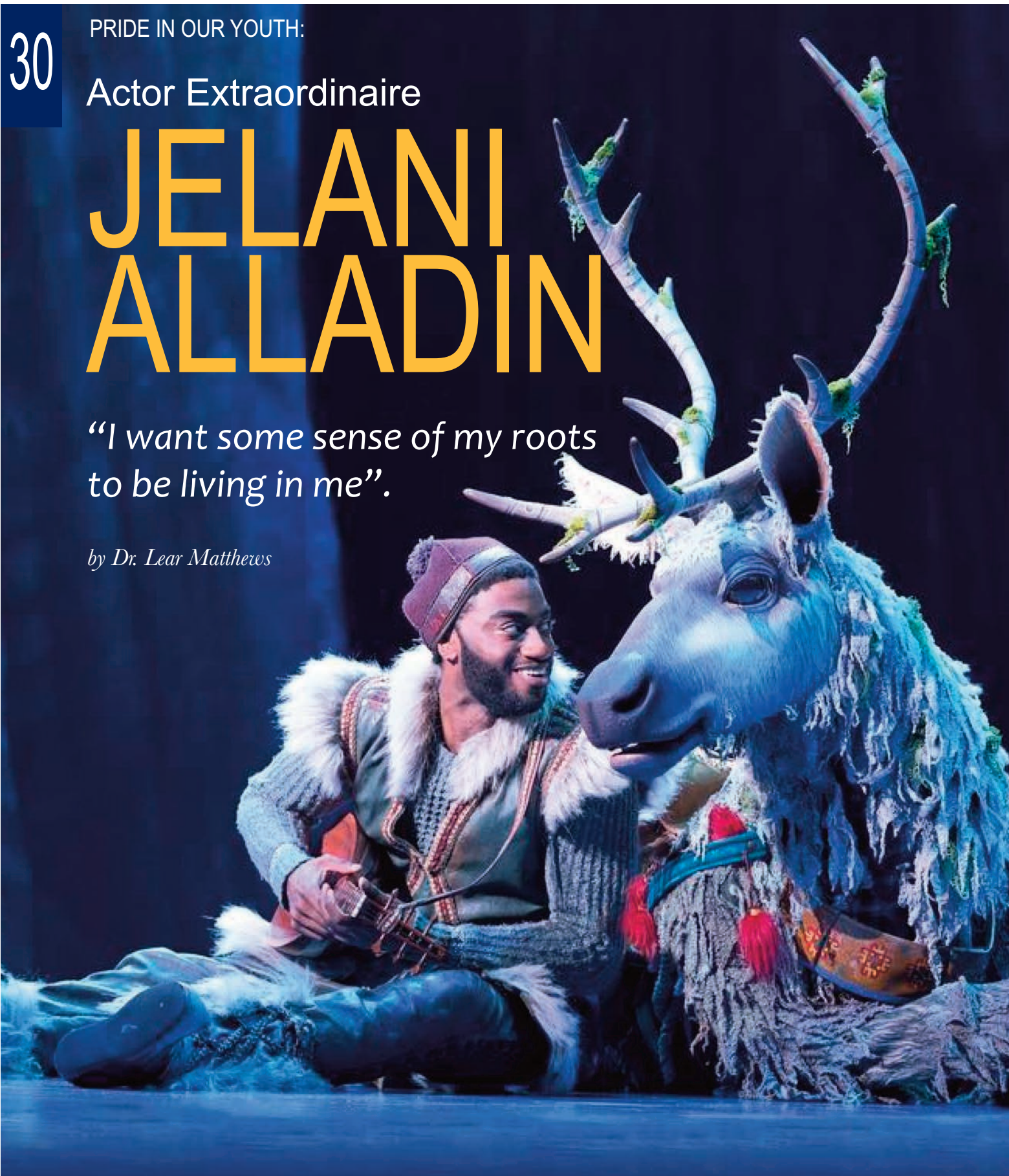
PRIDE IN OUR YOUTH:

Actor Extraordinaire

# JELANI ALLADIN

*“I want some sense of my roots  
to be living in me”.*

*by Dr. Lear Matthews*



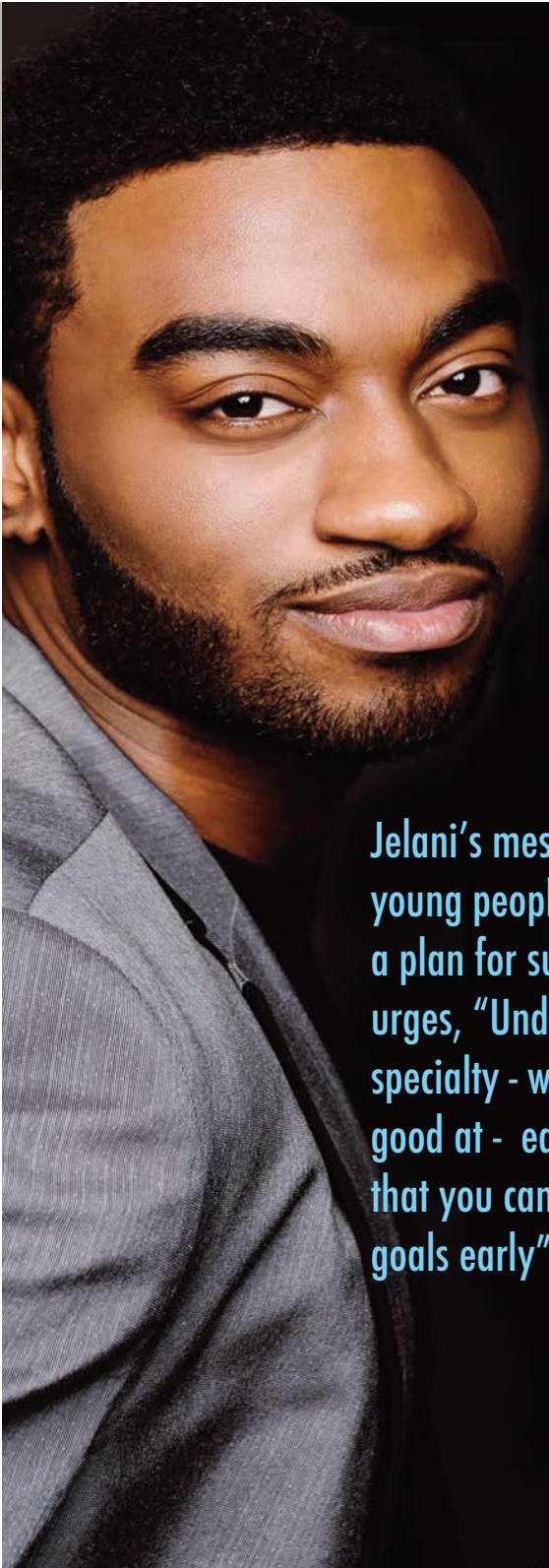


Jelani Alladin was born in Brooklyn, New York to Guyanese parents. His mother, Paulette Bazil hails from Mahaica and his father, Paul Alladin from Berbice. A versatile young actor, Jelani is making his Broadway debut in *Frozen, The Musical* as Kristof, which earned him a Drama Desk nomination for Best Leading Actor and a Drama League nomination for Distinguished Performance. A graduate of Tisch School of Arts New Studio on Broadway, his work has been seen off-Broadway and regionally.

Jelani has starred as Pharus in the Oscar Winner, Tarell McCrenney's *Choir Boy* at the Studio Theater of DC and the Marin Theater Company. In addition to rave reviews for both performances, Jelani received the San Francisco Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Leading Actor in a Play. Other notable regional credits include *The History Boys* (Palm Beach Drama Works), *Violet* (Clarence Brown Theater), and *I and You* (Theater Squared). He has also performed off-Broadway at the New York Theater in a revival of *Don't Bother me, I Can't Cope* and at the Signature Theater starring as Cat Jones in *Sweetee the Musical*. His past film credits include *Didn't Come Here to Make Love* and *High Noon at the West Side*.

Jelani is making his Broadway debut in *Frozen, The Musical* as Kristof, which earned him a Drama Desk nomination for Best Leading Actor and a Drama League nomination for Distinguished Performance.





**Jelani's message to young people is to have a plan for success. He urges, "Understand your specialty - what you are good at - early in life so that you can set your goals early"**

This talented and humble young man places much emphasis on the importance of education, instilled by his parents who were very stern and preached discipline. He reported that he never dreamt of becoming an actor, but rather a medical doctor or other professional. He places high value in the Caribbean/Guyanese cultural upbringing and stated that he grew up in a religious family attended Bible Studies regularly and sang in the church choir.

An important part of his formal education foundation was acquired at the Better Chance Program, an academic program for inner city children, from which he was well-prepared for a rigorous High School curriculum. During after school activities, he auditioned for his first musical and was given his premiere acting role. He stated that he started late, but learned much in a relatively short period of time. He described part of his adolescent years as having "a crazy lifestyle, unpredictable and ever-changing". Part of Jelani's philosophy as an artist is "in everything you do, never leave self behind". He poignantly affirms the importance of cultural heritage by promoting the idea that, "I want some sense of my roots to be living in me".

He stated that as a person of color, he has had to try 2 to 3 times harder and there were times when he felt like giving up, but persevered.

Jelani's message to young people is to have a plan for success. He urges, "Understand your specialty - what you are good at - early in life so that you can set your goals early". He believes that there is so much out there, but it is easy to get side-tracked and even lazy. Because there are so many distractions, he observed, some millennials cannot settle, while others have a lack of ambition. He lamented that he is troubled by the number of young Black men who have been incarcerated, and the plight of them finding jobs. He emphasizes the importance of education and is hopeful when he finds that so many young people willing to produce and invent things. He further advises young people to work hard for their dreams.

The Guyana Cultural Association is proud to showcase Jelani, one of many young people leading the way and blazing the trail of a new generation with determination, pride, humility and a sense of sustaining the cultural heritage of his native land.



High School Alumni Associations represent an important dimension of Diaspora engagement efforts. They have not been given much attention despite the increase in number among Caribbean immigrants and their significant contributions in the home country. Their history, achievements, challenges and prospective role in sustainable development will be explored.

Immigrant Alumni Associations are part of a body of organizations called Hometown Associations (HTA). Among the pioneers in Guyanese Alumni Associations since the early 1980's are Tutorial High School, Bishops High School, and Queens College. Like most Caribbean HTAs, they are formed in cities such as New York, Atlanta and Toronto where a large number of the Diaspora

ties provide the opportunity to engage in networking, colloquial discourse, reminiscing about the past, while enjoying nostalgic music and food, catching up with news from home and discussing how they are coping with current challenges. The events also provide an opportunity for the reacquaintance with family and friends separated by geographic dispersion, and the introduction of people who were strangers in their country of origin, but now share similar transnational goals. They also provide a steady flow of income for Diaspora entertainers and other entrepreneurs such as caterers, DJ's and event planners.

There have been several examples of extending resources across organizations. The formation of the Guyana High School Alumni Association

*If we all do our best within  
our means given the strength of  
our numbers, the Alumni's  
Mite, with a bit of  
munificence could prove to be  
the Alumni's Might.  
(Dr. Jacob Bynoe)*

**by Dr. Lear Matthews**

## Reflections on High School Alumni Associations: Challenges and Role in Sustainable Development

resides. There are more than 400 Guyanese immigrant HTAs in North America and the major services provided to their respective home country are in the areas of education, community development and healthcare. These organizations are created on the basis shared interests and the desire to 'give back'. Most have a stable structure, with an Executive Body and Standing Committee of about 8 members. Financial membership varies from 30 to 100 individuals, with a significantly larger number of non-membership supporters. Donations are collected from various fundraising events or individual donors. These events include dances, cultural/literary forums, bus rides, breakfast events, family fun day, concerts, and reunions. Many are 501 c 3 certified and try to maintain transparency through website postings. Apart from the main goal of supporting their alma mater, or local community, the above-stated activi-

Council, a consortium of 17 New York-based High School Associations and the Union of Jamaica Alumni associations, USA Inc. (UJAA) are classic examples. Their unprecedented work has been demonstrated in on-going educational projects in their respective home communities.

Ostensibly, these organizations' contribution to sustainable development can be measured by the effectiveness of the projects they sponsor. One such program is the Math Institute by Queens College Alumni Association of New York, in which students from 6 High Schools are tutored in developing their adeptness toward STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Other Associations plan to initiate similar programs. The goal is to empower and inspire students for the future. Such an unprecedented, innovative model is likely to have a lasting effect on change and development.



It is customary for government officials to seek assistance from Diaspora organizations. President David Granger stated, “we don’t need more barrels, we need brains...skills and expertise”. However that is interpreted, Alumni Associations could be a major player in sustainable development, particularly in educational training in areas relating to technology in light of the impending rise of the petro industry.

Undoubtedly, many of the organizations’ members are dedicated and committed people. However, like other HTAs, they are faced with internal and external challenges. A significant number of organizations report difficulty attracting new members. The founders, many of whom are ‘aging out’, rationalize their reluctance to relinquish control. One Board Member stated that there is the “fear of, and resistance to change”. They acknowledge that the organizations require strong continuous leadership, but appear to have no effective recruitment strategy. Although some members complained that they are “tired”, there is the belief that a new guard would not be as committed to the organizations’ mission. This also could be a microcosm of the experience in Guyana where millennials tend to be excluded from leadership positions and governance by the preceding baby boomers’ generation, as noted by one social analyst.

Other problems exist. The list of invitees to fund raising events is often based on friends and acquaintances of members of like age range, a cohort that is not only diminishing in size, but has decreased participation in social activities, partly due to health reasons. Among the complaints of HTA fund raising organizers is that profits from the cash bar are diminishing. This may be so because patrons are cautiously ‘drinking’ less due to age, health reasons and traffic laws related to safe driving.

There are tensions between the Diaspora and civil society in the home country and between HTAs and the government. Local residents often feel an existential threat from returning immigrants, while some in the Diaspora display unconscious bias by imposing their “foreign ways” of getting things done. These reciprocal actions and reactions cause resentment and frustration among non-immigrants and “comebackees” alike.

While some supporters question the motives of the organizations’ principal officers, others blame the lack of confidence in the level of commitment of the government. In this regard a more universal problem is the fact that the government tries to engage HTAs (including Alumni Associations) for help only right before national elections. Added to this is the frustration emanating from the lethargy of some hometown recipients of goods and services. Failure to provide timely acknowledgement and feedback about receipt of funds, goods and services is quite debilitating, causing a sort of Diaspora compassion fatigue.

Because organization membership is voluntary, positions are based less on expertise or merit and more on friendship ties which can be detrimental to effective management. This is exacerbated by poor attendance at Annual General Meetings where election of office bearers is held. There are many who like the idea of the mission of the organization and wish to be associated with its lofty goals, but are not enamored with actually doing the work.

The challenge to succession of Alumni Associations and other Diaspora organizations is imminent. Organizations must reassess their programs and plans for effective Diaspora engagement. Dancing to oldies and having Honorees’ Awards bestowed upon members may be self-ingratiating. HTAs’ Master Lists comprise of contemporaries of executives, but no contact information of the more recent graduates or new immigrant arrivals.

A new paradigm, which attracts the youth is needed for increasing membership. Officials must come to grips with the fact that their alma mater is not the same as when they left home (management and the curriculum have changed). Recruiting members from among final year students and recent graduates, and recalibrating fund raising events of interest to millennials will be instrumental for continuity. Redesigning the events’ programs to attract new members could be the ace to organizations’ survival.

**St. Joseph's High School Alumni Assoc.**



**Annual Labor Day Weekend**

**AFTER LUNCH JAM**

**SATURDAY, SEPT 1, 2018 ~ FROM 4:00 P.M.**

454 Vermont St, Brooklyn, NY 11207 (bet. Blake & Sutter)

(TRAIN: #3 to Pennsylvania Ave / "L" to Sutter Avenue / "C" Liberty Ave)

BUS: B-14 along Sutter Ave; B-20 or B-83 along Pennsylvania Ave. to Blake Ave)

**Music by the Fantastic DJ Flexx**

*Donation: \$10- Cash Bar and Food Court- extra \$*

\* Beverley: 347-557-5789 \* Brenca: 917-834-7851 \* Denise: 240-381-4114 \*

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