



NEWS AND VIEWS



GAOG Newsletter Winter Edition December 2015 Vol. 4

Seasons Greetings from the desk of the President.



This is our last quarter of a very productive year and the Guyana Association of Georgia is continuing on the streak of building on its accomplishments as the premier organization of the Guyanese people in the diaspora in Georgia.

After the holding of a smooth uneventful election in October 2015, the Association successfully hosted the first lady of Guyana Mrs. Sandra Granger and Minister of Social Cohesion Ms. Amna Ali on November 17th, 2015. Two functions were held in the honor of these two Guyanese stalwarts. With social cohesion and humanitarian work as the interest of the team, the Association held a working lunch at the GAOG Secretariat, where organizations that carry out humanitarian work, over the years in Guyana and based in Georgia, were invited.

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First Lady of Guyana Mrs. Sandra Granger visits GA.



From Left to Right: First Lady of the GAOG Ms. Thelma Thomas; President of the GAOG Dr. William Thomas; First Lady of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Ms. Sandra Granger & Minister of Social Cohesion, Ms. Amna Ally.

This past November, The First Lady of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Ms. Sandra Granger and Minister of Social Cohesion, Ms. Amna Ally visited the Atlanta Georgia Area on official business to explore options on how to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality.

On November 17th 2015, The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. hosted the First Lady and the Minister for a luncheon with Humanitarians in Georgia, who carry out missions to Guyana, and then followed up with a Cocktail reception at the SOIS Banquet Hall, in College Park, Georgia.

Cont'd on pg. 2

GAOG holds elections, two new Board Trustees elected.

In November 2015, The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. held its Annual General Elections where two new Trustees were elected. There were four candidates nominated this year: Shena Applewhaite, Fitzstevan Griffith, Barbara Lashley, and Neil Wray. There were a total of fifty nine members who turned out to vote.

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INSIDE THE GAOG

First Lady and Minister Ally Visit Georgia

Cont. from page 1

Several Humanitarian nonprofit organizations who work extensively in Guyana met with Mrs. Granger and Minister Ally at the Guyana Association of Georgia Secretariat to discuss pressing issues such as poverty and children's needs in the school system, in Guyana. Some of the organizations included The Deskin Institute and Training, Bridges Medical Mission, Organization for Social Health & Advancement Guyana (OSHAG), Doulas across Borders, All God's Children, Global Paints and Demerara Charitable Foundation.

Most of the organizations present worked in children's education, eradicating poverty, food distribution or working with those affected with life threatening illnesses in Guyana.

The First Lady thanked all the organizations for meeting with her and Minister Ally. She also expressed that she had visited the oncology unit in Guyana when OSHAG was there and voiced her appreciation for the work they did this last October treating the patients. She noted that there were challenges such as the incidences and types of cancers as well as adequate training of local nurses. The First Lady whose main interests were in child development was grateful for those organizations working in the Buxton and other areas. She is working on streamlining more projects to provide meals for children in schools. Farmers were urged to produce and sell to the school program. Most of her projects are in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Cohesion with Minister Ally.

Minister Ally thanked all organizations present for not forgetting their country. She noted all the contributions and acknowledged that there were challenges in Guyana. She advised that she had taken copious notes during the presentations and would look into the glitches to see what relief could be brought to improve the efforts.

Minister Ally stressed that this government was still new and one of their top priorities was transparency.

Cont. on pg. 3



Humanitarian Organizations at the luncheon for First Lady Sandra Granger and Minister of Social Cohesion, Amna Ally.



Founder & President of OSHAG, Carrol Baggett addressing those present at the Luncheon at GAOG Secretariat.



First Lady of Guyana Sandra Granger (Center) with Minister Ally (Right) and GAOG President (Left) at the GAOG Luncheon.



First Lady of Guyana, Sandra Granger & Minister of Social Cohesion, Amna Ally.



Vice President of GAOG, Clairmont Fraser welcomes the First Lady Sandra Granger and Minister Ally to the Cocktail Reception at the SOIS banquet Hall.



Guests at the Cocktail Reception for First Lady Sandra Granger and Minister Ally.

She stated that The Ministry of Social Cohesion is new and the brainchild of the current President, and she was making a desperate effort to improve services in the country. The formation of the new ministry was not by accident as there was a lot of poverty, disparity and inequality in Guyana. The country's ethnic differences were causing ethnic barriers and it manifested itself highly at elections time. She also added that the Ministry of Social Cohesion was focusing on education and noted that help was given to students who had no boats to attend school. Three boats have already been commissioned to act as water taxis and this had been made possible through public private partnerships. For other areas such as the Rupununi, they are also looking at providing bicycles for children to ride to school at a cost of \$15 - \$20,000 GYD per bicycle. They are hoping to combat the school dropout rate of 6,000 students per year country wide. According to Minister Ally the government believes in "teaching how to fish, not giving the fish." As a former Head Teacher, education is near and dear to her heart. This was all part of their "Boats, Buses and Bicycle program."

The luncheon was followed by a warm cocktail reception later in the evening for the First lady and Minister. Many Guyanese and other Caribbean nationals showed their support by attending and posing questions. The evening was elegant and well received. Mrs. Granger and Minister Ally expressed their gratitude and briefly recapped their platforms of working with children and teenage pregnancies in Guyana and getting them back in schools. They were also focusing on empowering women in the communities and on eradicating poverty and breaking down racial barriers and ethnic conflicts. They were happy to learn of the many organizations who had their hearts at home in Guyana and welcomed the opportunity to work with them in the near future.

GAOG Elections from page 1

The two members who secured the most votes and the new trustee positions were Shena Applewhaite (38 votes) and Barbara Lashley (35 votes). Fitzstevan Griffith and Neil Wray obtained 26 votes and 12 votes respectively. Both ladies pledged to honor the values of the organization and serve to the best of their abilities during their three year term.

The membership also voted on the name change of the building. The majority (20) voted for the name 'The GAOG Secretariat' as the official name of the building. The name 'Guyana House' received 15 votes and 'GAOG Building' 19 votes.
Donna DeGroot, Elections Chair



New Board Trustees Shena Applewhaite and Barbara Lashley on election night.



Candidates Fitzstevan Griffith and Neil Wray addressing the membership on elections night.



General Members Meeting, Election night 2015



Lifetime member Wavney Coppin casts her vote.



Election Chair Donna DeGroot conducting elections night



Member Adolf Farley Thompson casts his vote.

GAOG Christmas Dinner 2015

The GAOG Board hosted a Christmas Dinner for its members on December 20th 2015 at the GAOG Secretariat. Many members turned out to join in the festivities. The evening began with an abbreviated version of the general members meeting which ended in the singing of traditional Christmas carols and dinner.

The President, Dr. William Thomas took this opportunity to thank all those who worked diligently in 2015 to keep the organization going and encouraged participation for the New Year. Those volunteers and members who went the extra mile helping out in the organization were thanked and recognized by Ms. Joan Reuben with small tokens of appreciation.

Members were then treated to a traditional Guyanese dinner served by Executive officers of the Board. Some of the items on the menu were spinach rice, baked turkey, with green salad. Desserts included black cake, pastries and a variety of cheese cakes.

Many guests present ended the night in dancing and wishing each other God's blessings and good cheer for the Holidays and New Year.



President Thomas addressing members at the Christmas Dinner.



Below: Board members Marilyn Osbourne (Secretary), Clairmont Fraser (Vice President) & Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Marcus Gordon wait on members at dinner

Members at the Christmas Dinner (above). Below- Member Marrie George an guest enjoying dinner.



Members Appreciation



President Thomas addressing members at the Membership Appreciation Party.

This last October, the President and Board of the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. held a function for all members and volunteers for this past year's activities and events. Members were treated to dinner and festivities at the GAOG Secretariat.

The organization relies heavily on volunteerism to create, promote and pull off its fundraising events annually, the largest of which is the three day Memorial Day Actives. The membership base has grown and has been revitalized considerably this past year by at least thirty percent. The Association looks forward to the kinship and continued support of those living in Georgia, the US and elsewhere for the year 2016.



Members dancing and having fun at the membership appreciation.



Dancing the electric slide at the Membership Appreciation Party.

**The Guyana Association
of Georgia Inc.**

Have you signed up or renewed your membership
this year? Wait no more!

- Make yourself heard!
- Only financial members can vote!
- Get discounts at your grocery store
- Stay connected to the Guyanese community



- Professional networking opportunity.
- Access to scholarship opportunities.
- Giving back to your community
- Educational tutoring

Pay online at www.gaog.org

President's message. From pg. 1

At this function, there was a lively discussion during which fruitful ideas were articulated by the various organizations present and also from the First Lady and Minister Ally.

The second function was a social reception at which members of the diaspora in Georgia were present. There too, were discussions from members of the Guyanese community who displayed a keen interest in the development of Guyana. The team later held informal discussions with those present. From reports after the two functions the Guyanese in the Diaspora in Georgia were very impressed with the First Lady and Mister Ally, and invited them to return to Georgia. Those two functions would not have been possible without the help a group of people who worked quietly and tirelessly in the background. To them, I say a big thank you.

It should also be noted that the Association successfully posted two barrels of necessities in Guyana as it did last year. Thanks must be given to Marilyn Browne, who spearheaded that venture. I want to thank all those who pitched in to make that venture a success that it was.

Now as the year winds down, on behalf of the Board of the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. I would like to thank your for all your support this year and as we sit down with our families this holiday to enjoy pepper pot, Black cake and ginger beer, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

William Thomas, Ph.D.

President
Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.,
GAOG Secretariat, Lithonia, GA



FINANCIAL SERIES

SAVING MONEY AT HOME

Do you have more month than money? What if there were ways right at home that you could save your dollars? Here are a couple of Tips

Stop collecting, and start selling



There was a time when people thought their collections would bring them riches. Beanie Babies were a big fad at one time, as were Longaberger baskets. Now you can find those items on resale sites like Craigslist and at garage sales for a fraction of their initial cost, leaving many people who sunk thousands of dollars into their "investments" wondering what happened.

If you want to avoid that situation, don't collect items of questionable value. And if you want to recoup some of the money you've already spent on collectible items, you can start selling them now and use those funds for any number of worthy financial goals.

Sign up for every free customer rewards program you can.



No matter where you live, you'll find plenty of retailers who are willing to reward you for shopping at their store. Here's the basic game plan for maximizing these programs: create a Gmail or Yahoo address just for these mailings, collect every card you can, and then check that account for extra coupons whenever you're ready to shop.

You can add to those rewards and discounts by using rewards credit cards to earn points on purchases at a wide range of stores that can be redeemed for cash back or other benefits.

thesimpledollar.com

GAOG Committees Update



Building Committee

Goals 2015: To ensure the general maintenance and upkeep of the building through refurbishing and holding cleanup activities.



Team: Dennis Belgrave (Chairperson), Neville George, Marrie George, Claude London, Aubrey Augustine, Neil Wray

Projects completed in 2015:

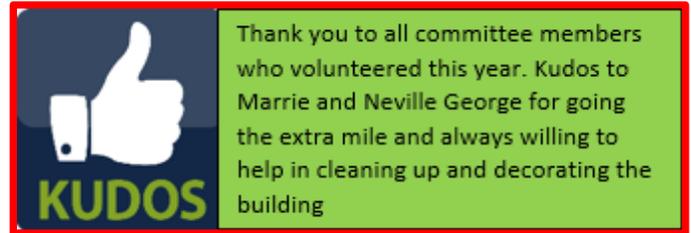
1. Completed Awning outside the garage.
This is a safer & cost effective alternative to purchasing and pitching tents for events.
2. Finished the safety rail around the awning.
3. Added kitchenette on ground floor.
4. Started proceedings to obtain the neighboring lot.

How can you contribute?

Small monthly monetary donations to help with maintenance.
Sign up to volunteer in the building committee.
Assist us in the cleanup and maintenance activities.

Dennis Belgrave - Dennis9321@att.net

Dennis Belgrave- Chair



Communications/Publicity Committee

Goal 2015: to work mainly through the media of the GAOG Website, Facebook page and the Newsletter to continue promoting the association's community outreach programs, activities, events and efforts.



Team: Shena Applewhaite (Chairperson), Lyndelle Isaacs- Heyliger, Colvin Henderson, Judy Wilson. A special thanks to Lawrence Prescott.

Projects completed in 2015:

- 1 Used the various social media to promote the association's events and activities such as Memorial Weekend, Scholarship Banquet and Tea Party.
2. Continuously updated the Association's website to accurately reflect the organization's mission, vision and current activities. A new membership tab has been added and all 2015 newsletter have been uploaded.
- 3 Increased the GAOG Facebook page viewership from 64 persons in February 2015 to 495 person likes at year end.
4. Consistently published the quarterly newsletter (News and Views).
5. Reactivated the GAOG Twitter Account.

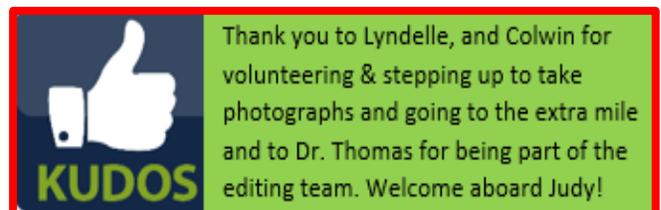
How can you contribute?

Sign up. Send us old Guyanese photos and proverbs or let us know what is happening in our community. We will get it out there!

Shena Applewhaite – shena_a@yahoo.com

info@gaog.org

Shena Applewhaite – Chair





Education Committee

Goal 2015: To plan for all phases of the Educational programs for GAOG and promote and provide programs and practices that will enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of students and young adults.



Team: Carl C. Lashley (chairperson), Slater Jeffrey, Neville George, Dr. Hector Butts, Marilyn Browne, Dr. Kelly Thomas, Patricia Jeffrey and Marcus Gordon.

Projects completed in 2015:

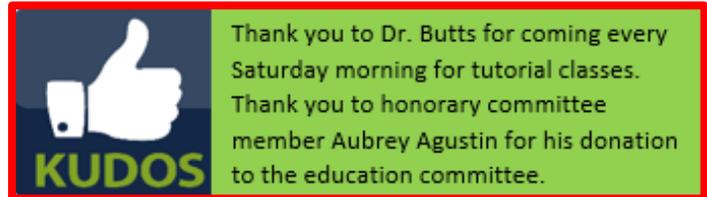
1. The Annual Scholarship Banquet was successfully held this year.
2. A total of three local scholarships, one international scholarship and one Adult Career advancement scholarship were successfully given out to students and young adults this year through the Annual Scholarship Program.
3. Saturday Tutorial Classes were held during the course of the year for students in the Atlanta Metro area.

Please visit www.gaog.org for more information on our scholarship program.

How can you contribute?

Tutors are needed for our youth programs.

Contact: Carl Lashley: cclashley@gmail.com



Finance/Economics Committee

Goal 2015: Develop an annual operation budget with staff, approve the budget within the finance committee. Monitor Adherence to the budget as well as setting long range financial goals.



Team: Dennis Fraser (Chairperson), Andrea Fraser, Marcus Gordon.

Projects completed in 2015:

Started the auditing process and cleaning up the facility. Taking inventory of the Association's Assets.

Ensured feasibility reports were submitted for events.

Ensured the association's money is accounted for.

Each member of the board contributed \$10/ month to the building fund.

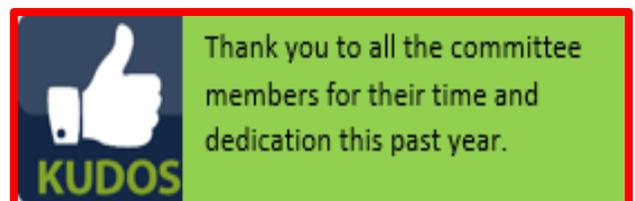
How can you contribute?

Sign up to volunteer in the committee

Contact: Dennis Fraser

Email: dennisfraser@msn.com

Dennis Fraser - Chair





Humanitarian/Hospitality Committee

The goal and objective of this committee is to support and provide humanitarian and hospitality services within our community, to our Motherland Guyana, as well as to other countries within the diaspora, who may be experiencing disasters such as - hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanoes, flooding etc.



Team: Marilyn Farley-Thompson (Chairperson) Adolf Farley- Thompson, Ms. Joan Rueben, Mrs. Lezlie Sinclair, Marilyn Browne
Projects completed in 2015:

1. Annual Feed the Homeless.
2. Hosted the First Lady of Guyana, Mrs. Sandra Granger and Min. Amna Ally for a Luncheon and Cocktail Reception.
3. Prepared barrels of clothing for the Ruimveldt children Home & Care Center (Guyana)
4. Prepared Christmas Baskets for the sick and shut in members of our community.
5. Assisted with the Dominica Disaster Recovery efforts for the victims of Hurricane Erica this year.

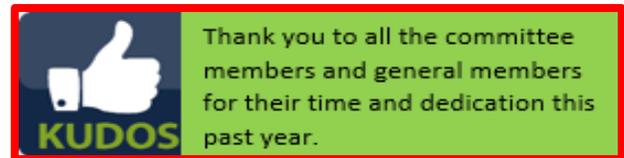
How can you contribute?

Over the past 23 years the GAOG has annually supported a Feed the Homeless Project at the Trinity Community Ministries in Metro Atlanta, where we prepare and serve a hot lunch to the homeless community, comprising of 250 to 400 men, women and children.

Also, we have been tasked to send favors- such as get well cards, sympathy cards and flowers to membership and supporters in their time of need

Volunteering for humanitarian programs and initiatives has been and remains my passion. Overtime, I have learned that it is indeed a fantastic way to express one's caring for others who may be less fortunate or experiencing a down period in their lives. I would submit that there is no better way, than by participation in humanitarian projects domestically and abroad to show that "We truly care"

Contact: Marilyn Farley-Thompson
 E-mail: farleythompsonm@yahoo.com
 Marilyn Farley- Thompson – (Chair)



Membership/Events Committee

Goal 2015: Membership - To increase overall membership by 10% over the next three years and to reach out to current inactive members and encourage them to become active members once again.



Events - to assist with the coordination of the events held throughout the year.

Team: Lyndelle Isaacs-Heyliger (Chairperson), Shena Applewhite, Verdine Benn, Claude London and Claire Wilson-Daly

2015 Projects:

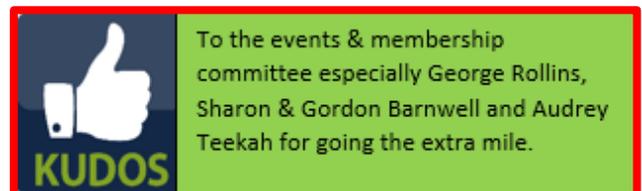
1. Increased financial membership by approximately 40% in 2015.
2. Introduced GroupSpaces- our contact management data base, which has been successful in communicating information to our members.
3. Completed the process of transferring all of the financial members and friends of the organization into Groupspaces.
4. Increased the signing up of interested persons from 104 people to 184 persons.
5. Overall 99% of the events were successful in 2015.

How can you contribute?

Members can help by providing current contact information and signing up via the email request to join our group sent to them.

Contact: Lyndelle Isaacs Heyliger
 E-mail: Lyndelleheyliiger@yahoo.com

Lyndelle Isaacs- Heyliger (Chair)





Sponsorship Committee

To build a network of Sponsors and Partners with other community organizations, groups, businesses and individuals to assist in accomplishing the mission of the GAOG to promote and expand its humanitarian, cultural and education impact within the community.



Team: Claire Wilson-Daly (Chairperson), Brenda & Charles D'Andrade, Arlene Wilson-Ryan, Joylyn DePeana.

Projects completed in 2015:

1. GAOG enrolled in E-Verify to position it to receive corporate donations.
2. Established Partnership with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Scholarship - \$2,500 for 2015, \$2,500 for 2016. \$5,000 for 2017.
3. Designed program to engage and commit Past Presidents in an ongoing Scholarship Awards program beginning September 2016.*
4. Designed program to encourage periodic vendors and supporters to become partners and sustaining members of programs of their choice.

How can you contribute?

By partnering with the GAOG at any level that is comfortable for them, or for any event they are passionate about seeing succeed. Members can also commit to donating cleaning items for the building, (bathroom cleaners, trash can liners, hand sanitizers, hand soap, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.) Please document and place a value to your donation so that you may receive the appropriate acknowledgement from the GAOG.

Contact: grannyfit_2000@yahoo.com

Claire Wilson-Daly, Chair



Christmas Baskets for our members who are shut in.

The Sick and Shut in Program was revived this year as members of the association remembered those who could no longer actively participate in the events of the Association. Ms. Joan Reuben spearheaded this project along with the assistance of Ms. Donna DeGroot.

The ladies prepared Christmas baskets with various food and household items to help those members get through the holiday season.

It is important that at this time of the year we remember the elderly and those who are unable to be out and about. The recipients of the baskets were Ms. Enid Paris, Dr. Mitchell and Ms. Caroline Piggott. The Board and members would like to thank the hospitality committee for this kind gesture.



Ms. Enid Parris receives her Christmas Basket

Kudos to Noel Isaacs- Heyiger for donating and installing the new mail box after the old one was knocked over.

Kudos to Aubrey Agustin & team for installing the new kitchenette, sink and all!

Kudos to Gwen Fredericks, the "Ticket Boss," for selling 8 tables at the 2015 Tea Party!

Kudos to Ms. Marrie George our resident interior decorator at almost every event!

The Awning Project
Kudos to Lyndelle Isaacs- Heyliger, Denis Belgrave, Neville George, Marrie George and all others who worked, and continue to improve this Project. We will be holding lots of events under this awning in the future!

GAOG
Kudos Korner

Kudos to the President of the GAOG for working diligently during the year to see projects through and helping out as needed on various committees.

Kudos to Carl Lashley and the Education /Scholarship Committee for successfully pulling off the Banquet.

Kudos to the Memorial Weekend Committee and volunteers for pulling off yet another massive event

Kudos to the team who prepare those delicious meals to supply the food bar at our General Members Meeting

Did we forget some one? Please let us know. Email or call us with your kudos recommendation!
info@gaog.org



Happy New Year!

To all our Members and Friends
From the GAOG Board.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

Kiwanis Kids Cultural Challenge (2015)

Saturday September 5th was a drizzling, soggy day requiring the first KKCC inside in a long, long time (some of us old timers can remember it taking place inside Jones years ago).

Inside or outside, KKCC is always an amazing experience, however this one was particularly remarkable. No matter whether young or older, spirits were high, particularly in the sense of cooperation, sharing and enjoying the intimacy of being in the more confined inside space. We all were able to interact more personally with the amazing displays, banners and exhibits and marvel at the imaginative cultural attire and performances while navigating through Warren's gym to its teen games room.

I am very proud of the way our members and staff easily adapted to being inside and the challenge of making their presentations as complete as possible with the limitations. Our great friends from the Atlanta Kiwanis Club plus volunteers from GSU, CAU, GA Tech, Nike and Bank of America were critical in helping the event run smoothly. The Warren Club staff worked tirelessly to make their Club as welcoming as possible to 24 other Clubs and cultures! If a stranger visited last Saturday, s/he would think Warren was the United Nations as representations of countries from every continent (except Antarctica) were interacting everywhere.

Needless to say, the Judges were truly challenged!

Region	Award	Recipient
1	Performance	Carver
	Costume	Barksdale
	Cultural	Thomasville
	Best Banner	Draper
	Best Overall	Radloff
2	Performance	Pittman Park
	Costume	Matthews
	Cultural	Brookhaven
	Best Banner	Carrollton
3	Best Overall	A. Worley Brown
	Performance	Woolfolk
	Costume	East DeKalb
4	Cultural	Adamsville
	Best Banner	Jones
	Best Overall	Paulding County
	Performance	Mimms
	Costume	Douglas
5	Cultural	Warren
	Best Banner	Adams Park
	Best Overall	Grant
	Performance	Whitehead
	Costume	Newnan
Cultural	Anderson	
	Best Banner	Harland
	Best Overall	Lawrenceville

Please see the pictures of the group that won the best costume 'portraying the native Amerindian Dance'. Costumes were proudly made by Mrs. Hazel Marshall, Exhibit artifacts- Marilyn Farley-Thompson and 'Pepper-pot' Dr. William Thomas and Mrs. Thelma Thomas

Thanks for all that we collectively do to represent our dear land of Guyana! Hurray to all who participated in the 2015 Kiwanis Kids Cultural Challenge! It was a fabulous day! Thank you Warren Club for being such a grand host!

Rebecca DesMarais & Marilyn Farley Thompson





Arts and Culture

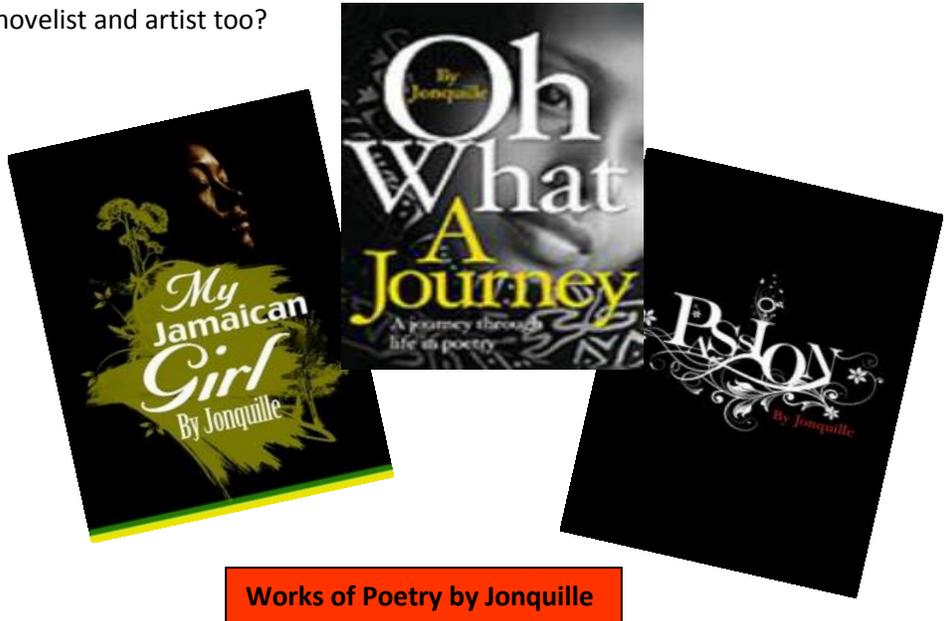
Kim Jonquille Hodge – Poet, Novelist, Artist.



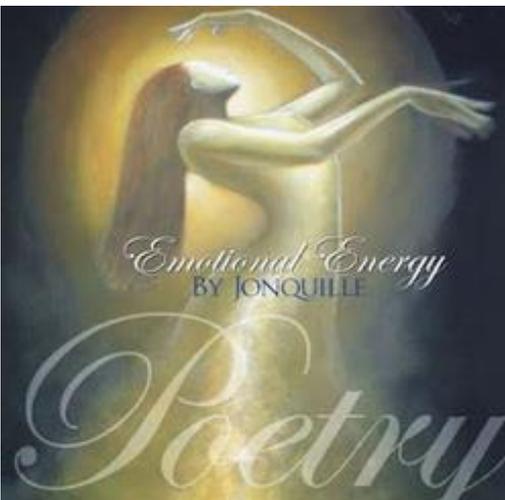
Many of us in the community have heard of this young lady as she is known for her work with children (as founder of Celebrate Our Children) in the Atlanta metro area. Kim Jonquille Hodge is married to husband Mark Hodge and has three children, Hadiya (19), Shauna (12) & Shemar (9). They currently reside in Lithonia GA.

Guyanese born Kim hails from the village of Sheet Anchor, Canjie and relocated to the US at the very young age of ten. Her parents Marrie and Neville George are well known in the Guyana Association of Georgia. Kim graduated from Georgia Perimeter with an Associate's degree in psychology and from Sanford Brown- with an Associate's degree in Cardiovascular Ultrasound. She currently works as a Neuro Vascular Ultrasound specialist at a local hospital. A promising career for sure, but how many of us know that Kim is a poet, novelist and artist too?

Writing under the pen name Jonquille, her earliest work was a book of poems published in 2003 entitled **"Oh what a Journey."** She refers to this work as her 'life up until 2003.' Her next publication was **"Emotional Energy"** 2007 another book of poetry with inspirational verses and Bible scriptures to go with them. This was followed by **"Passion"** in 2011, a book of love poems dedicated to her husband. Finally in (2012) she did an anthology with other authors that included a short story called **"My Jamaican Girl."** She is currently working on a short novel, called **'Nothing but Grace,'** a story about a young lady that gets by with the guidance of an angel and God's grace.



Works of Poetry by Jonquille



Kim started writing when she was about nine. She remembers writing a lot of poetry back then. After migrating to US she started to write poems about people in her neighborhood. When she got married she shared her poetry with her husband but he was very abusive and saw that as a threat. That relationship ended after eleven years of abuse, the book ended up being burnt and the poems were lost forever. Traumatized by these events Kim stated that she stopped writing for years after. However after moving and growing to love again, in 2001, things began change and her creativity returned and she started writing again. Not only did she start writing again but, she used her experiences in the abusive relationship with her former husband to mentor and help other women who find themselves in similar situations. In November of this year, she spoke at Gilgal in SW Atlanta, a home for women who are recovering from drug use and who are survivors of domestic violence.



Left, Mixed Media Art Piece, and right Angel greeting card from Cathy's Collections – both done by Jonquille.

Poetry is not the only outlet Kim uses to express her creativity. In 2012 she formed her own publishing company, Emotional Energy Enterprises, where she makes her own cards, t-shirts and artwork. In the future she plans to add speaking engagements to this portfolio. Her art work of choice is called mixed media art where she uses different materials such as designer paper, felt, glitter glue, acrylic, pencil or charcoal on canvases. The theme of her cards are taken from her art on canvas and marketed under the name Cathy's Collections after her aunt who loved angels.

If you would like to learn more about Kim Jonquille Hodge's work please visit her website

<http://emotionalee.com>

FIND AND LIKE US
ON FACEBOOK



FOLLOW US ON
TWITTER
@GUYANA OFGA



ALL THINGS GUYANESE

Snap Shot



Remembering the late President Hoyte.

It has been more than 13 years since former President Hugh Desmond Hoyte passed away. Executives of the People's National Congress reform and other admirers of the late president gathered last Tuesday at the place of the seven ponds Botanical gardens to commemorate the 13th anniversary of his death.

Miss World Guyana

Miss World Guyana 2015, Lisa Punch outshined more than 130 other delegates from across the world to win this year's Miss World talent competition at the Miss World Pageant in China.

HIV/AIDS in Guyana

There's hope for persons living with HIV/AIDS in Guyana. For too long there has been a stigma attached to those who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Public Health Minister, Dr. George Norton promises that Government will be treating HIV/AIDS as a priority issue in 2016. He says persons living with the disease are humans and deserve the good life promised. Guyana at one time has 6% of its population affected but this number has since decreased.



- 1.5 lbs. Beef (I used a chuck roast, then cut it into 1 inch cubes)
- 2 lbs. Oxtail
- 3lbs Cow Heel (may also be called cow feet in some supermarket)
- 1 cup cassareep (divided into 2)
- 1/2 cup brown sugar + about 1/4 cup for the end.
- 1 large yellow onions diced
- 6 large cloves of garlic finely chopped
- 1 tsp cayenne powder
- 5 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tbsp. granulated garlic
- 3 wiri wiri peppers
- 1 tbsp. whole cloves
- 2 tbsp. salt
- 1 tsp fresh ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp. dried Guyanese thyme
- About 4 tbsp. oil

Pepper Pot Directions: by Metemgee

First, season the oxtail using 1/3 of the sugar and all the other ingredients, except the cinnamon, cloves and wiri wiri pepper. Use 1/3 of 1/2 of the cassareep and reserve the other 1/2 to use later. Do not add the onion and garlic. Mix everything together and let sit for at least 30 minutes before cooking. Follow the same steps to marinate the beef and cow heel. In a large stock pot sauté 1/3 of the onion and garlic on high heat, in about 2 tbsp. of oil. Then add seasoned beef, cinnamon, cloves and wiri wiri pepper. Sauté beef until all pieces are brown all over. Once the meat is nice and brown, add about 6 cups of water to the beef, bring to a boil on high heat, then reduce heat to low and let simmer.

Warm about 1 tbsp. oil in a pressure cooker on high heat, then add oxtail and 1/3 of onion and garlic. Sauté oxtail until brown, then add 5 cups of water to the pressure cooker. Cover and pressure cook until oxtail is tender but not completely falling off the bone. Follow the same steps to pressure cook the cow heel, as you did with the oxtail. Now add the oxtail to the beef and mix together. Then add the cow heel to the oxtail and beef combination and mix together. After you have combined all the meat add about 2 to 3 cups more water, just enough to cover the meat. Then add the 1/2 cup of cassareep we reserved in the beginning. Increase the heat to high and bring pot to a roaring boiling. Let boil for 10 to 15 minutes. Then, reduce heat to low and simmer until all the meat is falling off the bone tender, about 2.5 hrs. Taste pepperpot and added about 1/4 cup brown sugar and a pinch of salt, if needed. Cut open the wiri wiri peppers for additional heat. Serve and Enjoy.

IS SUH DEY SEH

Only Guyanese does:

Remember every "MARABUNTA STING" you ever got.



FOLKLORE GALORE

Bush Dai Dai

Amerindian spirit of the forests who protects the gold and diamond treasure - short, squat, resembles a moving tree.

The Bush Dai Dai will take the form of a beautiful woman and appear to travelers or in miner's camps, and seduce a weak man she might take a fancy to. After having her way with the unfortunate she will change into a wild animal and eat her victim as they sleep.

-Wavne's Outpost.



Bush Dai Dai

GAOG Donates to the Ruimveldt Children's Home and Care Center in Guyana.

By Marilyn Browne



While the holidays can be a magical time that allows us to open our hearts, it can also remind us of our purpose and place in the world. In this light, the Guyana Association of Georgia made its Second Annual donation to the Ruimveldt Children's Home and Care Center in Guyana. Volunteers quickly answered the call and their donations of clothing, shoes, toys, and books filled two jumbo-sized barrels which were shipped to Guyana at a discounted rate by Caribbean International Shipping Services. We offer our sincere thanks and best wishes to Sharon and Gordon Barnwell and their staff for their generosity.

A shining light and a well-respected establishment in the community, RCHCC provides over 100 children from Ruimveldt, Alexander Village and surrounding areas with meals, psycho-social counseling, religious education, literacy, and training in dancing and music.

The Center has received generous donations of children's books (many of them from GAOG members and supporters) and last July Zena Bland (Miss Guyana United Kingdom) flew to Guyana to officiate at the opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Center's library. Students from the United States also provided help with summer school classes for the kids.

RCHCC is located at 13, Public Road in Ruimveldt. Far from self-sustaining, Patron Jessica Hatfield and staff members depend on donations from organizations and individuals from abroad and in Guyana. Please consider donating to the Center or visiting the children when you go to Guyana. The staff can be contacted at 011-592-227-2092.

Items they find especially valuable are –

- Clothes - (ages 2-16)
- Books – (age-appropriate)
- Shoes – (all children's sizes)
- Toys (age-appropriate)
- Craft Supplies
- Pens, Pencils
- Canned Goods
- Dried Boxed Goods
- Bags – School backpacks



Photos: Packing the barrels. Top – Member Audrey Teekah & First Lady of the GAOG Thelma Thomas; center- Project co-ordinator Marilyn Browne and other members; bottom – member Penny Brown and another member.

Editor's Corner



The year 2015 has flown past so quickly! Here we are, almost in the New Year! I must say that this year saw many successful projects with high turn outs including hosting the First Lady, Sandra Granger and Minister Ally, Social Cohesion. We saw an increase in our membership and folks genuinely wanting to participate in community and other activities, reminding us of our heritage.

As we continued to celebrate our holidays with family, friends and loved ones we remembered those who were sick or shut in and presented them with baskets of goodies. Members and volunteers were also shown appreciation at a special function this quarter as well.

While we closed out the year with a Christmas Dinner we remembered the less fortunate children in Guyana, sending down two barrels of essentials and goodies. Now as you ring in the New Year with good cheer, remember those who are dear. Next year is the 50th Anniversary of Guyana and we will come strong. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all!

Shena Applewhaite

Executive Board

Dr. William Thomas - President
Clairmont Fraser - Vice-President
Merlyn Osborne - Secretary
Donna Tinto - Treasurer
Marcus Gordon- Asst. Secty/Treasurer
Parliamentarian - Claude London

Trustees

Dennis Belgrave
Lyndelle Isaacs- Heyliger
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Committee Chairpersons

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Education - Carl Lashley
Finance - Dennis Fraser
*Humanitarian/Hospitality- Marilyn Farley-
 Thompson*
Membership- Lyndelle Isaacs-Heyliger
Sponsorship- Claire Daily- Wilson
Health & Wellness - Faustina Osborne

Condolences

Our heart goes out to the members and friends of the Association who lost loved ones during this past quarter.



**Your association needs you!
 Volunteer today in one of
 our committees!**

Contact the Chair of the committee you are interested in.

**Are you up for the challenge?
 GAOG needs your talents to help the
 community.
 Become a member today!**