GAOG Memorial Weekend 2015

Family Fun Day at the James R. Halford Stadium, Lithonia GA

It is never business as usual at the Guyana Association of Georgia (GAOG). And this quarter was no different. To say that we were very busy would be an understatement. It was in this quarter that the major and important fund raising activities were held. All the activities, according to our staunchest critics, were not only successful, but were well received, as patrons called for more.

The Memorial Weekend activities signaled a flurry of several events that were spearheaded and promoted by the GAOG. After months of preparation and planning, it was “crunch” time and the GAOG stepped “up to the plate”. The weekend was ushered in on the night of Friday May 22, 2015 with the Welcome Party which was well attended by patrons from all over the country and Canada who enjoyed themselves to drumming, queh queh dance and music.

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Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebrations

The Georgia Caribbean American Heritage Association officially launched the 10th Caribbean American Heritage Month celebrations on June 7th, with an opening ceremony that was both exciting and informative. This all-inclusive ceremony showcased a colorful collage of Caribbean island nations with their different yet similar cultures. Ms. Universe Jamaica Kaci Fennel led the Caribbean Youth flag bearers at the beginning of the ceremony. Emcees Shelly Max and Kadine Gardner Smith then introduced Rev Dr. Earl Ifill for the invocations and President of GCAHA, Toni Alleyne welcomed all present to the event.

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The 4th Annual Brunch

On April 18th the Guyana Association of Georgia held its 4th annual brunch at the Rock of Ages church in DeKalb County GA. This event was well attended as guests came out to support this fund raiser. Emcee Hazel Harry, effortlessly chaired the event and kept guests engaged. Those present were treated to Guyanese cuisine and drinks and entertainment from Guyanese and American talent. The committee made a special attempt to involve the youth more in the organization. Several young people gave back to the community by serving guests. The younger ones were eager to help out. Their ages ranged from 8 years all the way to 18 years.

This year’s theme was birds of Guyana which was reflected in the room décor. Many guests took the opportunity to mingle and catchup. After brunch was served everyone was treated to an array of entertainment from local talent.

Blake England started the event off with a spine tingling rendition of the American National Anthem. Guests were also treated to sweet reggae sounds by Mark Christopher and the elegant sounds of classical music from Nickasey Freeman.

A Night of Jazz and Wine

By Marilyn Browne

It was an evening of jazz, wine, food and a surge of unmistakable energy on Friday, March 28th at 1970 Panola Road. The house was packed as a large crowd came out in support of “Caribbean Jazz Night”. Seats filled up quickly and there was standing room only in anticipation of what the Real Jazz Band had to offer, and they did not disappoint. Their performances and approaches to the music were totally refreshing and they worked it to the bone. The vocalist belted out tune after tune, including some very reflective pieces as the band grooved to a fusion of R & B, Reggae and Jazz which included some very recognizable tunes by artists such as the late, great Bob Marley. The crowd was delighted and some participants hummed and danced along in their seats, while others relaxed at their tables, immersed in conversation and the melodies and various interpretations of the music. Other forms of entertainment also included the poem “Beautiful Black Woman” by Randall Foster. It was quite an incredible night which left you wanting for more. A special thanks to everyone who supported the event, including the committee members who made the event successful.

From the GAOG Board

Thank you to all our sponsors, members and volunteers who have worked to make this last quarter successful. We look forward to your continuous support in the future.

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
The GAOG ushered in the Memorial Day weekend festivities with its Welcome Party at Guyana House on May 22nd 2015. Guyanese arrived from all over the country and Guyana to participate in the festivities. Every Memorial Weekend thousands of Guyanese and American Guyanese venture down to Atlanta for the GAOG’s festivities which also coincide with Guyana’s Independence Anniversary week Activities. They were entertained by renowned Guyanese folk singer Jeggae who drummed out familiar tunes such as ‘Lilly Gal’ to party guests. Many danced and sang to the traditional folk songs, as they joyfully kept the culture alive. Those present were also treated to a medley of folk songs by junior soca monarch (2014) Nesta who travelled to Georgia just for the weekend’s event. Guests partied way into the night to popular reggae and soca tunes and enjoyed tasty Guyanese dishes such as channa, chowmein, souse and cook up rice.

Members and friends met on May 8th to enjoy a night of games and a Guyanese movie. All were excited to play dominoes, Sorry, Cards, chess and Trivial pursuit. Delicious Guyanese food was on sale to be washed down with beer and soft drinks. Many took this as an opportunity to hang out and catch up on current events especially since the National Elections were only three days away. Members who were in the Association the longest reminisced on the old days and events that occurred. The Board treated those present to a Guyanese movie “Old house pon top of Old house” which was immensely enjoyed by all. The movie induced thigh slapping laughs and brought back a lot of nostalgia about Guyana.

The association hopes to continue game and movie nights in an attempt to keep all connected with their culture as well as pass on to the younger generations coming up. While having the mind games like chess, drafts and trivial pursuit which engaged the mind, we are hoping to expand, especially to include more ‘yard games’ such as 1,2,3 Red Light, Jumbie break the Piper, Jump rope, Chinee, Gam (Tahs) and scrubby cricket matches in the future. Ahh! Those good old playing days!
GAOG Adult Financial Education Program

The Education Committee in collaboration with 10G Insurance & Financial Solutions presented the first in a series of financial educational workshops this last March.

This session focused on retirement, IRA and Roth IRA programs. Owner Neville George discussed with those present their options for retirement and the importance of early planning for their future. He also explained the differences between the IRA and Roth IRA and life insurances available. Mr. George hopes to have several financial sessions throughout the year on various topics that interests the membership. Please contact Neville George, Financial Advisor with any further questions.

The Independence Ball

Once again, several hundred Guyanese decked out in formal wear, flocked to the Omega World Center to support the GAOG Independence Ball. This year the ball held a special significance in light of the newly elected President Granger and Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo. More importantly it commemorated Guyana’s 49th Independence Anniversary which was a few days away. The drinks flowed and the floor was packed as guests danced to oldies, soca and R&B music well into the wee hours of the morning. The Independence Ball traditionally signals the end of the memorial weekend festivities hosted by the GAOG and guests try to squeeze every last ounce of enjoyment out of it.

If you were not able to make it to this year’s events make sure you do not miss the GAOG 25th anniversary ball next year as it will be a grand affair.

The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. invites you to their
9th Annual Tea Party

On Saturday July 11th 2015
At Church of the Holy Cross
2005 S Columbia Pl, Decatur GA 30032
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Donation: Adults $25, Children 10 years & over $12
Hot parade, door prizes, and prize for best decorated table.
Contact: Marilyn Osborn 478-313-4968, Joan Buchan 404-331-7390

Announcements
Upcoming events (2015)

July 11th Annual Tea Party
July 24th Games and Movie Night
Aug 22nd Casino Night
Aug Feed the Homeless.
Sept 26th Scholarship Awards Banquet
Memorial Weekend 2015. From pg. 1

The Family Fun Day (May 24, 2015) was an action packed day. Patrons showed up in the thousands to support and said that it was the largest so far in the recent past that they could remember, despite the fact the one of the headliners (Natural Black) could not attend the function. It was an incident-free event and most patrons reported that they would return next year. The Family Fun day was packed with activities for all ages. The kids enjoyed track and field sports and other games where prizes were awarded. There was the adult cricket match sponsored by Caribbean International Shipping Services, and of course there was more than enough food vendors providing a rich Guyanese cuisine sprinkled with dishes from other island nations. The highlight of the day was however the entertainment. Lisa punch wowed the crowd while Nesta (reigning junior soca champ 2014) enthralled all present with her soca melodies. There was tassa drumming from the Atlanta Drummers and the Queh Queh performers paid homage to the ancestors.

Festivities spilled over into the night when De One Man Band “brought the house down” at the Independence Anniversary Ball, so much that the patrons did not want “to go home” at the end of the dance. It was well supported and was a definite success. “Bring back De One Man Band” was echoed by patrons as they reluctantly left the venue which they claimed was unique and upscale.

Other events for this last quarter included the Annual Brunch, which was held in April 2015 and which proved to be a resounding success. One patron asked “Are you going to have another one later in the year?” At the brunch guests were serenaded by many artists and performers, enjoyed mouthwatering food and chatted with friends. It was a festive occasion.

We had our first Games night for the year in May 2015, and although the attendance was not what was expected, the crowd of people enjoyed themselves and as a member opined “I cannot wait for the next one”.

June 2015 saw GAOG participating in the Caribbean Heritage Month activities. The opening of the month’s activities took place at the Atlanta City Hall, atrium. The table hosted by the GAOG received rave reviews as it showcased several pieces of art and culture. June 2015 also saw the GAOG partnering with the PAHO Foundation in the “Know Your Numbers” campaign. It was a campaign to get people to purchase Blood Pressure Cuffs and Monitors to help medical professionals in Guyana’s communities identify, combat, and help prevent hypertension. The program started on June 9, 2015 and will end July 9, 2015. GAOG has held its own and marketed the program through its membership, friends and electronic platforms at its disposal. We would like to thank all our supporters and sponsors and look forward to working with you the next quarter.

Dr. William Thomas, President GAOG
Caribbean American Heritage Month is a nationally recognized event as attested by proclamations from President Barack Obama, Office of the Atlanta Mayor Kasseem Reed and DeKalb County Commissioner Stan Watson. This year’s keynote guest speaker was the distinguished Dr. Claire Nelson who introduced her speech with an Ananci Story analogy portraying unity and working together.

The audience were treated to several cultural presentations throughout the ceremony. These included dances by VI Majorettes, the St. Lucia Quadrille Dancers and NJS Performance Dance Academy. The audience were also entertained by Montserrat reigning calypso monarch Dr. Lumba and steel pan interludes by Anisa Bolden. Each Caribbean country had display booths showcasing cultural items particular to their country. The Guyana Association of Georgia showcased all things Guyanese at their table. Finally there was what appeared to be an endless buffet style of Caribbean cuisine which guests enjoyed.

During the entire month of June there were several activities planned for the community. These included the Caribbean film festival, ‘The Standpipe- A Tenement Yard’ play by the Drama Group, The Variety show, Youth Empowerment workshop and the Gala and awards Ceremony.

On June 9th, the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. (GAOG) and the Pan American Health Organizations Foundation teamed up in the “**know your Numbers Campaign**” to supply blood pressure cuffs and monitors to Guyana in the know your numbers campaign. This crowdfunding campaign aimed at addressing heart disease and high blood pressure in Guyana and making Guyanese more aware of this condition by getting regular checkups.

The goal was to raise $5350. By the end of Day one about $1200 (23%) of the funds had already been raised. Every $33 dollars purchased one blood pressure cuff and monitor. Guyanese from all over generously donated to this cause raising $ 2041.00 at the time of this publication. This venture is proving to be successful and the GAOG looks forward to partnering up with PAHO on future Ventures. The campaign ends on July 9th 2015. If you would like to donate please go to the link below.

https://hipgive.org/project/know-your-numbers/
This issue I interviewed the Chairman of the Georgia Caribbean Arts Troupe (GCAT), Kirt Archer, to find out more about their work and local talent. This group is more affectionately known as the Drama Group in the Guyanese American Community and is based in the Stone Mountain area in Georgia. It was officially launched and registered in 2013 but has been performing at least a year and a half before that. The founders Dawn Simons (Past President of the GAOG) and Kirt Archer recognized that there was a need for something more besides the regular monthly meeting hours at the Guyana Association of Georgia. They sat down about two years ago when the GAOG was about to have a tea party and the organizers wanted to have a live show on the program. The idea of having Guyanese folklore was born at this Tea Party. He and Dawn got together to put something on the program. They took their own money, invited the drummer and put on Wordsworth McAndrew’s “Old Higue” in skit form. Dawn (who is a teacher trained in the drama, culture and arts) was the old Higue while he did the narration. Three others played the role of kids. From there the troupe was born. They did a short skit in May at GAOG Welcome Party night, 2012 with the intention of promoting the Guyanese culture within the community.

Today the GCAT comprises twelve to fourteen members. The board members are: Chairman- Kirt Archer, Secretary- Dawn Simons, Treasurer-Trevor Pearson, Assistant Treasurer- Doreen Griffith and the Public Relations Person – Douglas Prince. Ages of members range from kids twelve years old all the way up. Even though the group is mainly Guyanese now they also have members from Trinidad & Tobago, and Jamaica. Their hope is to incorporate more talent from other island nations in the future to have a truly diverse Caribbean group. To date the group performs mainly in Georgia. Some of the main projects they have worked on include “Do suh nah Like Suh” (Written by Verdine Benn & edited by Harold Bascom); ‘The Stand Pipe, A Tenement Yard” by Derrick John Jeffrey and the “Old Higue Skit” by Wordsworth McAndrews. They have also done several interpretive dances, the spoken word and traditional Afro Guyanese Queh Queh performances at several venues. Two of the younger members did a short interpretive dance at the Wake for past GAOG association member Melvin Victor this June. In 2014 at the Caribbean American Heritage Month opening ceremony in the Atlanta City Hall Atrium, the troupe also performed an interpretive dance. Later on this year in September they will perform all five acts of the Stand Pipe – A Tenement Yard, play.

The group does not plan to remain local however. They have been linking up with members of the executive body of the Caribbean Fusion in Kissimmee Florida for the past two years doing some outreach there. Next month they will be going to Delaware to meet up with the Guyanese community at their family fun day.

In the next five years their vision is to have a drama group that is all encompassing of Caribbean folks. At present it is a part time, voluntary organization. They meet regularly, once a week, in person or via conference call. They want to expand and become a dominant player in the Caribbean Community in Georgia and are hoping to attract other Caribbean nationalities to come under the umbrella. They are looking for more spoken word artists and are encouraging more interpretive dancing. When asked about competitors in the Atlanta area, Mr. Archer stated that he does not look at it like that. They think of how best they can work with them in a joint venture. The group is open for new members at this time. They encourage people to contact any one of the members. At the moment there are no formal restrictions to adhere to. One just needs to have an interest in the arts. According to Mr. Archer, “If you love drama here is an avenue for you to get involved. Join by lending your skills to individuals who have never done it before or dust the rust off your acting career and get involved.” For relaxation, the group goes on annual cruises and has one planned for this year as well. If you have any questions contact Dawn Simons at 404-889-4491.

Scenes from A Tenement Yard Play Performed at Karibbean Konnections Building

Arts and Culture: Georgia Caribbean Arts Troup
Congratulations to Mr. Basil Blackman, a long standing member of the Guyana Association of Georgia and past Treasurer of the Board who was awarded the prestigious Golden Arrow of Achievement for long and dedicated service in the Maritime Sector.

BASIL BRENTNOL BLACKMAN, FORMER COAST GUARD OFFICER, GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE.

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE DAY 2015

The Caribbean American Legislative Day at the Georgia Capitol was held on March 19th 2015. President of the Guyana Association of Georgia, Dr. William Thomas (far left in photo) represented the Guyanese community at this event and met with Governor Nathan Deal (center) and Ms. Jackie Watson (President of Georgia Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce). Invitees interacted with legislators and law makers to share the Caribbean culture. The objective of this event which was sponsored by Senator Emanuel Jones, was to be empowering, educational and enlightening. A resolution was also issued.

Thousands marched down Church Avenue in Brooklyn at a Unity Rally on Sunday, June 14th, 2015, in celebration of the new government. (Photo: R. Burke)
This June Guyanese in Atlanta celebrated the new change in administration with a party and informal fashion show. Three Guyanese designers displayed their fashions. Left: Vashti Harlequin (Vashti Unique Designs) – displays her crochet creations; center- Sharon Stuart (Sedio Designs) displays African prints; and right Carol Fraser’s models show comfortable embellished cotton pieces.

This September will make twenty two years since Sharon Barnwell and her business partners Gordon Barnwell and Wilfred Hoppie founded Caribbean International Shipping Services (CISS). Sharon is from Georgetown Guyana and has been in Georgia for over twenty years. She is the Founder and Business manager of CISS. Her husband Gordon is from Guyana as well and is the Full Container Load Specialist and responsible for marketing. Wilfred Hoppie currently oversees the daily warehouse operations and logistics activities.

According to Sharon, her introduction to becoming an entrepreneur in the shipping business occurred when she went to work after high school and during her early college days for a similar freight company (in Maryland). During that time, her then boss was told by a friend that Atlanta was becoming one of the fastest growing markets for Caribbean nationals and there was a growing need for freight services to the Caribbean. He was not ready for that change so she and her husband decided to come and take a look during the Memorial Weekend that year, and as the saying goes. . .the rest is history.

Today they continue to cater to the Caribbean Community and business is strong as ever. They connect Georgia with Tennessee, Alabama, North and South Carolina, Mississippi and the Caribbean. Today CISS specializes in freight consolidation of both air and ocean freight cargo and offer a variety of shipping options which include weekly shipping services, local pickup and delivery service, full container loads and relocation services, selling of barrels, boxes and other shipping supplies, door to door delivery in some destinations, international money transfer and Digicel Top up services.

Five years into the future, their goal is to continue anticipating and serving the local and international shipping community with their shipping needs. They would like to be a One Stop Shop providing many other services and are currently in negotiations to partner and offer other core services. These services and products will be announced once deals are finalized. CISS is also working on expanding agents to other growing markets. They have recently sponsored a magazine (The Atlanta-Caribbean Exchange) that will promote business, education and culture in the community.

The Barnwells have been members of the Guyana Association of Georgia (GAOG) for approximately twenty one years. They have had for the past fifteen plus years, a wonderful relationship with the Guyanese community and appreciate all the business and look forward to growing that market. They however would like to see the GAOG, working on understanding and building better relationships with the business community. When programs are established, they should not die with that board. Consistency and continuity is an important tool in building a strong and loyal business relationship.

They have been avid supporters of the scholarship program in the Association and for the next three years will be offering a $500 scholarship through GAOG to adults that are enrolled in courses or an educational program that can lead to career advancement or employment. They enjoy sponsoring and giving back to many of the local organizations. This year they are working with the Caribbean Heritage organization, Grenada, Jamaica, Caribbean Soccer League and many more groups.

If you would like to learn more about CISS, in September this year, they will have a booth at the Atlanta Caribbean Festival & Family Fund Day. You can visit them there or like them on Face book to be updated on any new activities or call the office directly at 770.323.111.
Snap Shot

New president elected in Guyana
On May 11th, 2015, Guyanese elected a new president and prime minister from the APNU/AFC coalition. This came after 23 years of rule by the PPP/C. Despite unfounded allegations of unfair election practices by the PPP/C, President David Granger and Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo were sworn in. On May 26th, 2015 the country’s first inauguration ceremony was held at the National Stadium. Many expressed a need for change after years of corruption, and about poverty rates and corruption by the previous administration. To date as current audits continue hundreds of millions of tax payers dollars are unaccounted for.

“Pick it up Guyana” Campaign.
Immediately after the new government was elected and sworn in they started a campaign to clean up the country starting with the capital Georgetown. They received support from many Guyanese who had a restored sense of pride and more importantly hope in the new government. The capital had been woefully neglected by the previous administration. The drainage canals which were the primary arteries that drained the city were cluttered with garbage, over grown weeds and in desperate need of desilting. The New administration in collaboration with the City Council, community groups, youth groups and help from the Fire Department and local residents embarked on the clean up the city campaign in an effort to restore Georgetown to the Garden City status. Progress can already be seen.

Political activist, Crum-Ewing slain in street.
In March of this year, political activist Courtney Crum-Ewing was slain in the street. Crum-Ewing was known to peacefully picket the attorney general’s office and the questionable practices of the then PPP/C. Police stated that Crum-Ewing was accosted by four men in a car, one of whom discharged several rounds hitting him about his body. At this time the investigation continues.

Guyana loses Dr. Faith Harding.
In January of this year Guyana lost a former Government Minister, educator, women’s rights activist, community worker and psychotherapist, Dr. Faith Harding. She died after a period of illness.

Gold mine collapses killing miners.
In May rescue crews recovered six miners who had been missing since an open gold mining pit collapsed in the Patoro-Siparuni area. Seven miners were rescued and four are still missing.

Vegetarian 3 bean Cook-up-rice.
Ingredients:
- ½ can of black eyed peas
- ½ can of chick peas (Channa)
- 2 cups long grain parboiled rice
- 1 can coconut milk, diluted with 4 cups of water
- ½ yellow onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- ½ can of petite diced tomatoes
- 1tbsp granulated garlic
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- ½ tsp. dried basil
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 1tbsp casareep
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 2 tbsp. oil

Directions:
Warm oil in a large (heavy bottom) stock pot, on medium heat. Add onion and garlic and sauté until onions are soft and slightly brown. Add tomatoes, thyme, basil and ½ the granulated garlic and cook down until all the water from the tomatoes has evaporated. Add the black eyed peas, kidney beans and chick peas. Add the remaining granulated garlic, sugar, salt, black pepper and cayenne pepper. Add rice and mix together. Add the coconut milk and water mixture, then add the casareep. Mix together. Increase the heat to high and bring up to a roaring boil. Let boil covered for 10 minutes. Then reduce the heat to low and continue to simmer until the rice is fully cooked. This should take 30 to 40 minutes. When rice is cooked and all the liquids have evaporated, serve and enjoy!

Serves 8

FOLKLORE GALORE

BACOO

A spirit of small stature that pelts stones at houses and moves objects within a house. He is supposed to live on banana and milk. Stories abound of the existence of bacoos in Georgetown and other areas in Guyana. Could have come from Surinam and are said to be trapped in a corked bottle unless released. Active mainly at night, it is said that a satisfied bacoos will answer the wishes of its owner.

‘Baku’ in many West African languages means ‘little brother’ or ‘short man’. It also is related to the word the word ‘bacocu’ meaning ‘banana’. In West Africa, the short races (such as the pygmies) were believed to have magical powers. This seemed to have been brought to Guyana, where the short races, or ‘bakus’, were still regarded as having magical powers.

-Wayne’s Outpost.

IS SUH DEY SEH

Only Guyanese does:
Swell up like ‘crappo’ when dey get ‘vex’
Or Call de sweetest banana ‘speckle banana’

President Granger and Prime Minister Nagamootoo commemorating Guyana’s 49th Independence Day Anniversary at the Independence National Monument, Georgetown, Guyana. It was recently restored for the ceremony.
Guyanese scientist on global sustainability fellowship in Australia

First published June 11 2015, by Kaieteur News, Georgetown, Guyana

Michelle Kalamandeen
Part of the Coastal Ecosystem, Essequibo, Guyana

Guyanese scientist, Michelle Kalamandeen is among 14 marine scientists and managers from the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian oceans, who are now in North Queensland, Australia for three weeks to exchange knowledge and learn about innovative coral reef science and management.

Ms. Kalamandeen, who is the Protected Area Coordinator of the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society (GMTCS), highlighted that, “while Guyana does not have coral reefs, the techniques which will be discussed at the workshop are connected to managing both the land and ocean resources. Such a strategy will be valuable to managing and protecting our own marine and coastal resources in Guyana such as sea turtles, mangroves and fishes.” The Caribbean and Pacific fellows are part of an Australia Awards Fellowship titled “Improving coral reef management for sustainable development in the Caribbean and Pacific”. Australia Awards are prestigious international Scholarships and Fellowships funded by the Australian Government to build capacity and strengthen partnerships. By providing short-term study, research and professional development opportunities in Australia, mid-career professionals and emerging leaders can tap into Australian expertise, gaining valuable skills and knowledge. The fellows will travel from Townsville to Port Douglas and visit government departments, research stations and reef-dependent businesses. They will meet the people and visit the habitats that make the Great Barrier Reef so special.

Ms. Kalamandeen further noted that she was very excited about the opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences and practical social and ecological tools with persons from different parts of the world who are all working on similar issues for the sustainable management of the oceans. “Oceans are such an integral part of our lives – they provide us with jobs, food, are important to our GDP and many indigenous cultures are linked to oceans. Imagine that every drop of water you drink, every breath you take in, you’re connected to the ocean. Almost half of the oxygen we breathe comes from the ocean, yet we understand little about how to sustainably manage these vast ‘living spaces’. No matter where you live, you will have an effect on the ocean, so ensuring healthy oceans takes every one of us doing our part.” Actions such as not dumping garbage in the ocean, using less plastic bags, and advocating that oceans are also within protected areas, are some of the ways the public can help.

Adjunct Associate Professor Paul Marshall and Dr. Adam Smith, who have extensive experience with marine management in Australia and elsewhere, are coordinating the Fellows visit. "We have observed the global decline of coral reefs and see that training of future leaders is essential for turning the tide towards a more sustainable future. Australia is the world leader in marine resource management. This Fellowship is a chance to share Australia’s expertise with the world.”

The Fellowship is being hosted by Reef Ecologic Pty Ltd with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), University of Queensland, James Cook University (JCU) and local industries and marine groups.

Horizon of Hope
Cont’d from pg. 1

The APNU/AFC coalition led by former Brigadier David Granger won 206,817 votes versus 201,457 the PPP/C garnered. The PPP/C vehemently challenged the elections insisting that they were rigged but produced no evidence to support these allegations. They continue to hold protests and decry the results but to no avail. Diplomats from the US, Canada and United kingdom who had representatives observing the elections maintain that the process was fair and free.

The Granger Administration immediately set to work once they were sworn in. They held the first ever inauguration ceremony at the National Stadium at which over 20,000 attended and witnessed President David Granger and Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo being sworn in. With the pleasantries out of the way, they immediately went about restoring the National Independence Monument (one of many monuments), which had fallen into disrepair and ruin due to neglect by the former administration. They also started a nationwide cleanup campaign that began in the capital city which had been woefully neglected these past two decades. The response was overwhelming. With a sense of pride restored and new hope on the horizon, Guyanese from various backgrounds rolled up their sleeves and set to work cleaning up the city. The business community, youth organizations, local government and fire departments also pitched in. The garbage that lined the streets and squares was picked up, drainage canals were desilted and overgrown weeds cleared out. All of this within the first thirty days or so.

This however is but a small part of what lays ahead for this administration. There is much work to be done, much to be undone and even more to be righted. Current audits of various ministries are showing signs of empty coffers, misappropriated funds, and disappearing pension plans. To date even though parliament has reconvened the PPP/C has been a no show as they refuse to recognize the new administration. This shows poor sportsmanship on their part and unfairness to their constituents whom they are not representing in parliament.

It will be an uphill battle but the current government shows no signs of backing down. They are faced with high unemployment rates, high rates of poverty, a vibrant underground economy and an international image that must be repaired and restored. The president has vowed to combat corruption, increase public sector salaries and lower individual taxes. They came in with a plan and are steadfastly executing it. For the first time in many years there is hope for a united front and that the country will recuperate.
Executive Board

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Finance – Dennis Fraser
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Membership– Lyndelle Isaacs–Heyliger

Condolences

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

Editor’s Corner

Well here are! Half of 2015 has passed and much has transpired this last quarter both in the GAOG and the community at large. The fund raisers we held so far were the Jazz Night, Annual Brunch and the Family Fun Day in which Guyanese from all over flew in to participate. This was also held in conjunction with the Welcome Party and the Independence Ball. The financial support the association received from the family fun day on memorial weekend allows us to give back generously in our scholarship and community programs so thank you to all those who participated.

There was also a lot happening in the community with the Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebrations, partnering with PAHO on the #know your numbers campaign, Guyana’s historic National elections and change in administration, and Guyana’s 49th Independence Anniversary.

As we move forward into the next quarter more activities are planned. The highlight will be the scholarship Banquet in September. We also have our Annual Tea Party next month, Feed the Hungry, and new this year, the Casino Night. All proceeds from these fund raisers go back into the community in one way or another. Thank you to all those who volunteer tirelessly to help pull off these events. Remember we still need your help and donations. Please volunteer in a committee today.

Shena Applewhaite

The Board and members would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Melvin Victor who went on to be with the Lord on 05/31/2015.

Mr. Victor was a long time member of the association and served as a trustee on the Board.