

# GUYANAI FOLK

*And Culture*

**GCA WELCOMES RISING STAR**

# Lisa Punch

**TO  
FOLK  
FESTIVAL  
2014**



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Please join our Facebook group,  
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**Glorious August.**

August has always been a time of great cultural expression in Guyana. And this year our full cultural diversity is on show both in Guyana and in the Diaspora.

First of all, a very sincere congratulations to all Guyana Cultural Association 2014 honorees. Your work, your artistry, your quest for excellence signify the incredible depth of rich cultural expressions in our Land of Six Peoples. You are now part of the magnificent cultural heritage of Guyana.

Congratulations also to the Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism winners. Godfrey in his own passionate way would have been extremely proud of you.

You are Guyana and we are Guyana because of you.

A special thank you to the Guyana Cultural Association for the ongoing sterling work that is done. You have not only earned the respect of all Guyanese, but the cultural world all bow to your initiative and quest for excellence and authenticity.

Kwe Kwe Nite; the Literary Hang; the Children's Village and Family Fun Day; the We Bridgin Symposium; and the Awards Program all signify that the organization itself deserves a mighty award. You have ensured our Diapsora across many countries can "bridge".

An august August. Emancipation 2014, the Guyana Cultural Association's multi-dimensional programs; re-unions galore; the Guyana Musical Network and Center Stage; Jamzone; Naya Zamana; religious concerts; the Caribbean Press book launches; horseracing; T-20 cricket and summer holidays.

This year a new cultural product was launched. The Guyana Festival. With its own format and catering to many different tastes, including those of tourists, our cultural portfolio has expanded. Graced by the youthful and very talented Lisa Punch, our latest "Rising Star".....youth must be served.

At the same time, we honor and mourn a great Guyanese cultural icon, Habeeb Khan. Guyana has produced many greats. We have had amazing writers, poets, singers, dancers, performers, entertainers. We are indeed world class and "best of class". Eddy Grant and his Ringbang brand come to mind. Not only has Eddy placed Guyana on the World map but Ringband Village Day in Plaisance this August highlighted how culture is a critical component of Village Life and national development.

August is also about transitions. Emancipation in 1838 was our primary transition to a Nation of six Peoples. August is also about the many reunions that enable us to seek permanence in the midst of our own personal transitions. August is about the transition of many of our young to university, nursery, primary and secondary schools. August is also about many of our youth transitioning into jobs.

August is a special month. it reminds us of how our Nation state was created-emanicipation led to indentureship, which led to independence, which led to Republican status.

August is our "bridging" month. August is a Guyanese "state of mind".

August more than any other month allows us to realise the importance of culture in our multi-ethnic society. It brings our heroes to our notice.

August, and especially through the work of the Guyana Cultural Association and many Guyanese cultural organizations including the Ministry of Culture help us to realise that "when we speak of the culture of a place, we are talking about far more than its artistic or its 'cultural products' – literature, music, dance, art, sculpture, theatre, film and sport. All of these, of course, are important expressions of the culture of any social group and are part of its shared joy in the business of being alive. Culture is about shared patterns of identity, symbolic meaning, aspiration, and about the relationships between individuals and groups within that society. Culture is also about the relationships between ideas and perspectives, about self-respect and a sense of security, about how individuals are socialized and values are formed and transmitted. Culture is also deeply intertwined with structures of power and wealth. Culture is about "common bonding, common vision, shared values and shared goals

Culture helps us to heal and to grow.

Culture is what makes Guyana great and what should be the glue of our evolution into One People, One Nation, One Destiny

After all...."we bridgin".

*Eric Phillips Jr.*, August Guest Editor

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine



# GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL 2014 SEASON

## WE BRIDGIN'

•GUYANA •GRENADA •SURINAME •TRINIDAD & TOBAGO •USA

## EXCITING LINE-UP OF TOP GUYANESE & CARIBBEAN ARTISTES FOR FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2014 OLD BOYS HIGH SCHOOL GROUND  
RUTLAND ROAD & TROY AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY NOON - 7.00 P.M.

### Kwe Kwe Nite!

**FRI, AUG. 29 8.00 P.M.**  
ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH  
AUDITORIUM  
2806 NEWKIRK & E28 STS.  
BROOKLYN, NY  
**ADMISSION: \$20.00**

### EVENTS DETAILS

#### Literary Hang

**SAT, AUG. 30 -12.00 NOON**  
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH GARDENS  
139 ST. JOHN'S PLACE  
BROOKLYN, NY  
**ADMISSION: FREE**

### Family Fun Day

**SUN, AUG. 31**  
**12.00 NOON - 7.00 P.M.**  
OLD BOYS HIGH SCHOOL  
GROUNDS  
RUTLAND RD. & TROY AVE  
BROOKLYN, NY  
**ADMISSION: \$10.00**  
**KIDS UNDER 16 & SENIORS FREE**

# 2014 GCA HONOREES

## SHINING LIGHTS & CONNECTORS BUILDING FOUNDATIONS IN SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY

*Ronald H. Lammy, Chair, GCA of NY Awards Committee*

Our anniversary theme in 2014 is, on one level, within the tradition of celebrating the creativity of our Guyanese heritage. We Bridgin' recognizes an understated factor in our lives for decades and thus raises our awareness of how we have conducted ourselves. We see through the Bridgin' lens what we have done and should do to make the conditions better.

There is an indirect prodding in Bridgin' for us to address the political and racial challenges that have grown and bother nearly all of us. This next level of attentiveness to our way of life portends well as we use our arts and cultural attributes collaboratively.

The span of accomplishments of this year's Awardees shows the capabilities that Guyanese have developed and displayed effectively in the homeland and in the Diaspora. Many of our honored compatriots have worked not only as connectors, but to build foundations in service to the society. Most are unsung in our dear land.

This year's Awardees are shining lights with accomplishments in education - music, social sciences, and pedagogy; performing and visual arts; aviation; and contemporary media. Everyone in, her or his, pursuit of excellence has made a mark for which Guyanese can be proud.

We note in the achievements of our Lifetime and Exemplary Awardees - Patricia Jordon Langford, Dr. Marjorie Jones and Dr. Moses Telford, respectively - decades-long walks and actions of crossing racial, social, and political boundaries to attain outcomes beneficial to all who needed to be served. They engendered feelings of trust in them and their initiatives to attain the worthy goals they pursued which enriched the Guyanese society. All true to the theme.

**Ronald H Lammy**

*Chair, GCA of NY Awards Committee.*

The GCA Award identifies talented people and enabling entities to acknowledge their contribution to society and to encourage others by their sterling examples. These may be individuals or an entity.

The Awards also illuminate the tenets of Guyanese heritage that guided the honorees to success.

They are in four categories and presented in five groups in 2014.

**Patricia Jordon-Langford** possesses a strong sense of civic responsibility and has dedicated her life to contributing to her communities in Guyana and its Diaspora. Her philanthropic endeavors have been focused on education and mentoring and the impact on youth has been outstanding. Over the last twelve years she provided scholarships and mentored fourteen college students. The last one graduated in 2014. Ms Jordon-Langford has for 22 years had a strong commitment to the empowerment of fellow Guyanese. She has been engaged in many successful projects of benefit to the indigent and abused - women and children. Recognition of her prodigious accomplishments has come in numerous awards from various sectors of the society. GCA is most proud to name her as its 2014 Lifetime Awardee.

**Dr. Marjorie Jones** is a model of excellence who has dedicated her life to moving Guyanese "onward and upward" through intelligence and knowledge to confront fear and ignorance. She is an outstanding educator because of her balance of passion, brainpower and workable solutions. One such had a seminal effect in Guyana. It shows her ability to transcend political par-

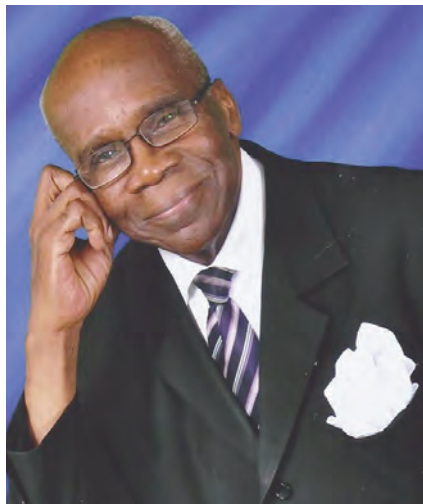
titions to the benefit of all Guyanese. The current government of Guyana has capitalized on Dr Jones' momentous contribution as an enabler. In May 2014, Dr Jones witnessed the graduation of thirteen multi-racial Guyanese at Lesley University with Masters Degrees. She had enabled that achievement by applying her superior skills in cultural humility - knowing how and getting the work done. Unsung in her homeland, she is recognized with the Exemplary Award.

**Dr Moses Telford** has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Exemplary Award. He is being recognized for an extraordinary career in music education in Guyana and its Diaspora. His teaching career at the secondary level in Berbice and at the Teacher's Training College in Georgetown was influential with remarkable results. Dr Telford's professional contributions and achievements were impactful in rural and urban Guyana; in London, England; and in American metropolitan cities. Guyana's rich cultural and multi-ethnic heritage can be discerned as an inspiration from his numerous academic and other accomplishments.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 GCA HONOREES



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
Patricia Jordon-Langford



EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT  
Dr. Moses Telford



EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT  
Dr. Marjorie Jones



GCA AWARD  
Selwyn Collins



GCA AWARD  
Dr. Carmen Bovell



GCA AWARD  
Col. Lawrence London



GCA AWARD  
Bernadette Persaud



GCA AWARD  
Adrian Dutchin



GCA AWARD  
Major Russell C.M. Edun



GCA AWARD  
Julio Thijs



GCA AWARD  
Lionel Augustus Lachmansingh



GCA AWARD  
Grace Aneiza Ali

2014 FOLK FESTIVAL SEASON

# 2014 GCA HONOREES

## SHINING LIGHTS & CONNECTORS BUILDING FOUNDATIONS IN SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY

*Ronald Lammy, Committee Chair*

**Dr. Carmen Bovell** has had outstanding accomplishments in Education and its pedagogy, and philanthropic activity in Guyana for over three decades. She is a Guyana Teacher's Training College graduate and a Fulbright Scholar. As a Founding member and a president of Guyanese Assisting in Development, she worked to address the social needs of indigent school children and the elderly. Donations also went to children with disabilities. The organization adopted the Ithaca Primary School in New Amsterdam. Dr. Bovell actively participated in a partnership with the Ministry of Education in an annual essay competition for various age groups.

**Selwyn Collins** is a talk show host and author who is recognized for establishing a contemporary media space to give access to a broad spectrum of voices. On his show, Guyanese and Caribbean nationals are given respect and acknowledged for their brilliance, courage, determination, academic, and intellectual excellence. His "Conversations" have been conducted with guests from the exemplary and notable to the man on the street with a message and common sense wisdom, and the youth with a mission to make a difference in the community. Selwyn has been a trailblazing innovator whose forum showcases Guyana's multi-ethnic heritage.

**Adrian Dutchin** is recognized for his accomplishments in the Performing Arts. He has an impressive portfolio of performances within the Guyanese and Caribbean Diaspora. A special feature of his career as a Guyanese entertainer is his ability to have several duet-like performances with his contemporaries of different genre.

**Norma Ramalho-Bacchus** is a 2014 honoree for her outstanding achievements in the performing arts, and for her dedication to sharing her talents in her quest to ensure that this aspect of our cultural heritage is retained. In 1966, she was accorded the distinctive honor of participating in the selection of Guyana's National Anthem. It was her duty to play the piano for all of the entries from which the final selection was made by the judging panel.



GCA AWARD  
Michael Currica



BUSINESS ENABLER  
Demerara Distillers Ltd.



GCA AWARD  
Norma Ramalho-Bacchus

**Lionel Lachmansingh** is an honoree for his pioneering enablement of a new group and fostering of musicianship in the performing arts. As founder of Bumble and The Saints, a 1960s popular music band led by the innovative guitarist and composer, Colin Wharton, Mr. Lachmansingh helped elevate a budding era of creativity. The success of his initiative, whose goal was to encourage the inclusiveness of young musicians, was inspired by Guyana's rich multi-ethnic heritage.

# 2014 GCA HONOREES

**Julio Thijs** is being recognized for his outstanding accomplishments in the art of stilt dancing and continuous efforts to broadly propagate its artistry. He is the protégée of Masquerader, Boysie Sage whom he credits with this unique skill that he has perfected over a span of forty-eight years. He displays a devotion to his talented presentations which are representative of the inspiration he derives from Guyana's rich cultural heritage. He has returned to Guyana to expand the art form by conducting many workshops and teaching the art of stilt dancing to young people across the nation.

**Grace Aneiza Ali** is recognized for a significant accomplishment in contemporary media. The online magazine OF NOTE is leading edge in its application of the arts as catalytic mechanism for activism and social change. The use of multi-media to portray the artistic and cultural productions of Guyana and Guyanese in the Diaspora is most noteworthy.

**Major Russell C.M. Edun** has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Award in recognition of a pioneering career in aviation in Guyana. It spans two decades with the Guyana Airways and the Guyana Defense Force. Major Edun's service in the Air Force was ground breaking leaving a record of excellence. Later, he joined the commercial North American Airlines and in 2004, he became the first pilot to land a B757/767 in Guyana. Currently he is an Adjunct Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, his alma mater and a First Officer of United Parcel Service, where he flies the B747-400 globally.

**Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence H. London** receives the Award for an extraordinary career in aviation in Guyana. Mr. London's professional contributions and achievements were impactful across the geography of Guyana both in the Guyanese military and commercial sectors. The two industries were emergent in the newly independent Guyana and his service spanned two decades from 1970. His proficiency in the Air Force was foundation-setting with remarkable results. In November 2013, the Guyana Defense Force main hangar and Air Corps Headquarters was renamed the "Air Station London" in his honor. Colonel Larry London holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's Degree from Embry Riddle University of Aeronautics.



YOUTH AWARD  
Roger David Ng-A-Qui



YOUTH AWARD  
Kamiyah Parchment

**Michael Currica** receives the GCA 2014 Award for his influential and substantive role in scoring and arranging Guyanese compositions in private and governmental endeavors. His transcription skills have helped to preserve notable Guyanese compositions from folk music to opera. The wide span of genres he covered defines the many aspects of Guyana's rich multicultural heritage that inspired him. Blooming during the early post independence period Mr. Currica earned the high regard of his mentors and his contemporaries.

**Cloyette Harris-Stoute** receives the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Award for her outstanding accomplishment in contemporary media. GuyaneseGirlsRock.com was "created to inspire, motivate and celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of Guyanese women across the globe". The successes of these women are showcased as examples for girls to follow in pursuit of their dreams. The varied profiles of Guyanese women are attributed to Guyana's multi-ethnic heritage.

**Bernadette Indira Persaud** receives the Guyana Cultural Association award for her superior contributions and outstanding accomplishments in the visual arts. Ms. Persaud has held exhibitions in the USA, UK, Canada, India, Mauritius, Suriname and the Caribbean. She taught at the Burrowes School of Art (1991-1999), and the University of Guyana (2000-2007). Her paintings and essays on art have been widely represented, both at home and abroad, and in several private and corporate collections. Ms Persaud has expressed "great satisfaction and pleasure to know that my work has been able to transcend/bridge both political and ethnocultural divisions, so fraught in our society -at home."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 GCA AWARDS HONOREES

### Youth:

**Roger David Ng-A-Qui** has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Youth Award. He is being recognized for his superior scholastic accomplishments at Phillips Exeter Academy and current pursuit of academic excellence at Yale University. GCA especially wishes to acknowledge his multi-lingual studies and fluency coupled with community service.

**Kamiyah Parchment** has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Youth Award. GCA recognizes her honor student status and encourages her to continue to uphold it in pursuit of academic excellence. The organization particularly acknowledges her exceptionally gifted vocal performances.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 GODFREY CHIN PRIZE FOR HERITAGE JOURNALISM WINNERS

*Vibert Cambridge, Chair, Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism*

It is my pleasure to announce the 2014 winners of the Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism. The winners represent qualities that Godfrey Chin admired and encouraged. He enjoyed doing research, especially collecting data—oral histories, photographs, songs, and “nylon.” He was passionate about sharing. He used all available and accessible communication channels to tell the Guyanese story.

The first prize winner of the 2014 Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism is **Gaiutra Bahadur**. The blog for her internationally acclaimed book *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture* is a wonderful contemporary example of the type of research that Godfrey Chin admired and encouraged.

There are two second prize winners: **Dimitri Alicock** (the blog *Oh Beautiful Guyana*) and **Vidyaratha Kissoon** (the blog *Thoughts of a mini-bus traveler*). These winners resonate with Godfrey Chin’s enthusiasm for using any available medium—the mural, the banner, the collage, the newspaper article, the book, the photographic exhibition, the radio program, the CD, the DVD—to promote and to celebrate the commonalities and “nylon” that connect all Guyanese.

Godfrey Chin was a master storyteller. He preferred wit rather than invective. The third-prize winner is **Ingrid Griffith** for *Demerara Gold*. This pioneering one-woman show has been described as “oral journalism.” Ingrid Griffith has attracted critical attention as an important voice in the telling of the Guyanese story.

**Please join us in extending heartfelt “Congratulations” to the 2014 winners of the Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism.**



**FIRST PRIZE**  
**Gaiutra Bahadur**



**Dimitri Alicock**



**Vidyaratha Kissoon**

**SECOND PRIZE**



**THIRD PRIZE**  
**Ingrid Griffith**

2014 FOLK FESTIVAL SEASON

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# We Coming Down Wid a Bunch a Roses!

BAN YUH BELLY FUH YUH WAN BOY PICKNEY!

GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL 2014

## Kwe Kwe Nite!

WITH JEGGAE, AKOYAH, HILTON, ROSE, VERNA  
& GUEST ARTISTES

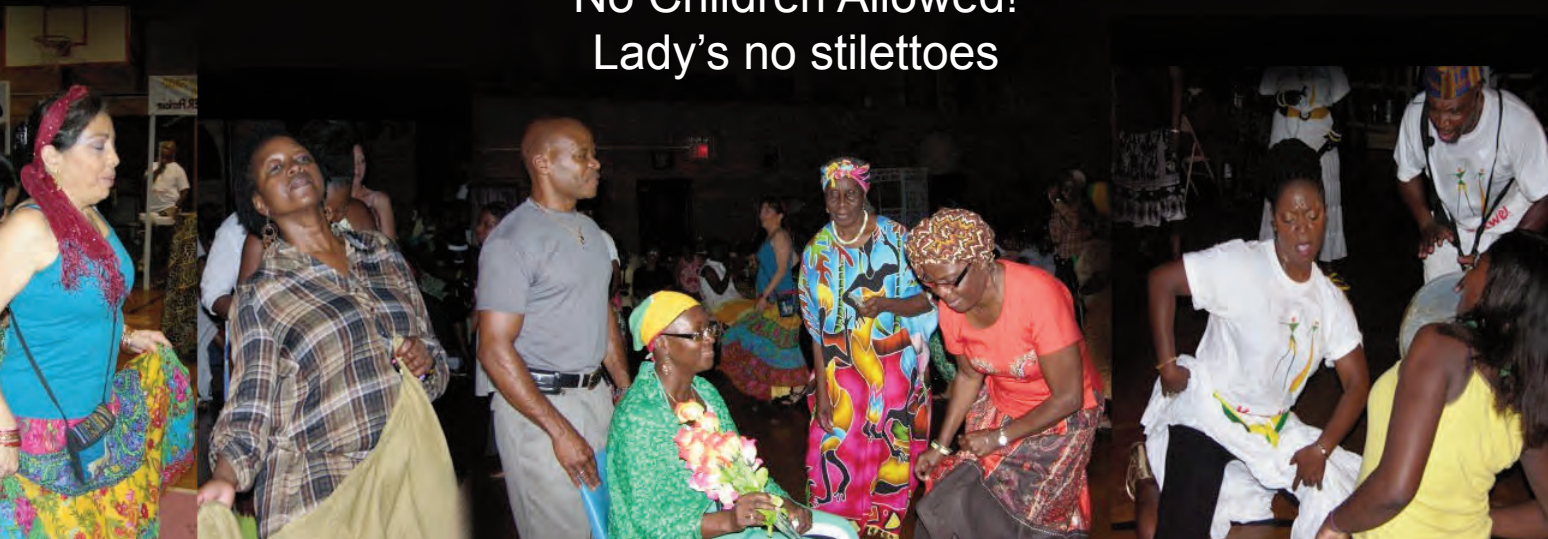
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2014**

**ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH AUDITORIUM**

2806 NEWKIRK & E.28 ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11226

8.00 P.M. SHARP

No Children Allowed!  
Lady's no stilettos



Good Nite Aye,  
good nite oh,  
Awe come cum  
tell yuh,  
Good Nite  
aye

*Woman lie  
down and  
de man caan function,  
Wah kinda man,  
is dat, is dat;  
Tek yuh calabash,  
wash yuh bembe,  
Na me shame,  
a yuh Mama shame.*

## Come to my Kwe Kwe!

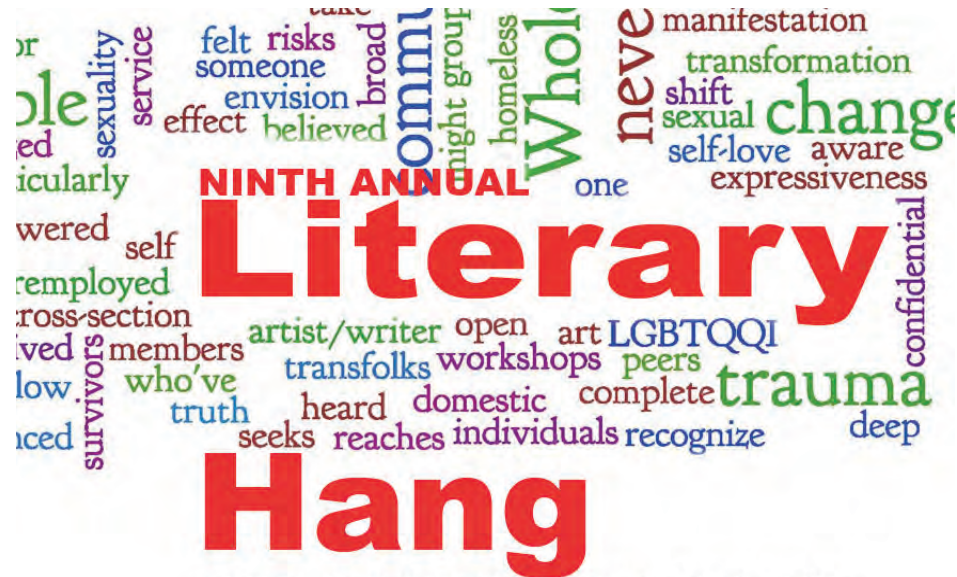
A UNIQUELY AFRICAN  
GUYANESE PRE-WEDDING  
TRADITION:

an evening of singing,  
dancing, eating and  
drinking.

An opportunity  
for the  
two families to  
get to know  
each other and  
traditionally to  
provide

instructional and  
psychological  
preparation  
to the bride and  
groom for  
married life.





## 2014 FOLK FESTIVAL SEASON

The Young Writers Series of the GCA Summer Workshops will also appear !

All participating wordsmiths will acknowledge bridges in this celebration of the book.

There will be an Open Mic, sale of books,  
general discussion,  
lots of laughter and great fun.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

Dr. Juliet Emanuel - JAEMANUEL@cs.com,  
GCA Secretariat: - **Tel: 718 209 5207**

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF  
NEW YORK, INC.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 30, 2014**

# THE UNDERCROFT St. John's Episcopal Church

139 ST. JOHN'S PLACE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11217

From noon - 7:00p.m.  
Books on sale.

Includes a traditional Ice-Cream Banquet

# LITERARY HANG 2014

Gaiutra Bahadur, Ingrid Griffith, Kennard Ramphal, Barbara Verasami, Dwarka Ramphal, Roy Brummell, Fenton Sands, Charles Liverpool, Abiola Abrams, Doris Harper-Wills, Lear Matthews, Yvonne Sam, Pat Jordon-Langford, Frank Birbalsingh, Romesh Singh, Florence Yukon, John Morris expected to participate

*Juliet Emanuel.*

On Saturday, August 30, after “de stan down” from the Kwe Kwe the night before and all persons are well rested, come over to St. John’s Episcopal Church, 139 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

That is where the Literary Hang will be this year. This event is open to the community.

There is no entrance fee.

If you want to present your book of prose, poetry, drama or any other genre, your words in video or in other graphic form, join us at this event.

The gates open at twelve noon to the public for browsing, meeting and greeting, purchasing and signing of books. The formal program starts promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Reading from their works this year are Kennard Ramphal, Dwarka Ramphal, Barbara Verasami, Gaiutra Bahadur, Ingrid Griffith, Roy Brummell, Fenton Sands, Charles Liverpool, Abiola Abrams and the young wordsmiths from The Writers’ Program of the GCA Caribbean Summer Workshop Series/Arts in the Community. A question and answer session follows each of these writers.

Also presenting their texts are Lear Matthews, Yvonne Sam, Pat Jordon-Langford, John Morris, Ronald Lammy, Frank Birbalsingh, Florence Yukon among others.

**If you have a published book or have a work in progress to promote, you may reserve a table at the Literary Hang.**

There is an Open Mic session and those who wish are given the chance to speak briefly, if time and demand allow. We ask only that, because of the presence of chil-

dren at this event, any texts that are read aloud be appropriate for all ages. It is best to register for Open Mic before the event or immediately on arrival at the event. Time is limited for Open Mic.

Beginning at 4:00 p.m., we will enjoy a traditional Ice Cream Banquet. There is, as always, a very modest charge for our proven delicious refreshments.

The Literary Hang program is packed for the six hours that we will be enjoying the art of communicating. So, come early, stay, laugh, learn. Before you know it will be 700 p.m. and the event will be over for 2014.

The Literary Hang, as part of its vision and mission moves, in part, out of NY to our states in the South in 2015 and to Guyana in 2016 for a planned week of celebrating our wordsmiths in the homeland. No man is an island; we are all part of the main.

*“We Bridgin’ ”*

For information about the Annual Literary Hang please go to [guyfolkfest.org](http://guyfolkfest.org); call the GCA Secretariat at 718 209 5207 or write [jaemanuel@cs.com](mailto:jaemanuel@cs.com).

The Annual Literary Hang: Saturday August 30, 2014; the Gardens of St. John’s Episcopal Church, 139 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn, between 6 and 7th Aves, NY 11217; from 1 to 7 p.m.

**There is no entrance fee to the Literary Hang.**

Then it is on to Family Fun Day on Sunday, August 31 at Old Boys’ Field, Troy Ave, Brooklyn. NY.

With hours of fun, entertainment, good food, all the people you have not seen in years and their grandkids, plus the godchild you macmay when you were 16 and is now all grown up, only as we do it, “We Bridgin’.”

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RISING STAR

# LISA PUNCH

**TO HEADLINE  
FOLK FESTIVAL  
FAMILY DAY SHOW**

SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 31

OLD BOYS H.S.  
GROUNDS

TROY AVENUE & RUTLAND RD.,  
BROOKLYN, NY

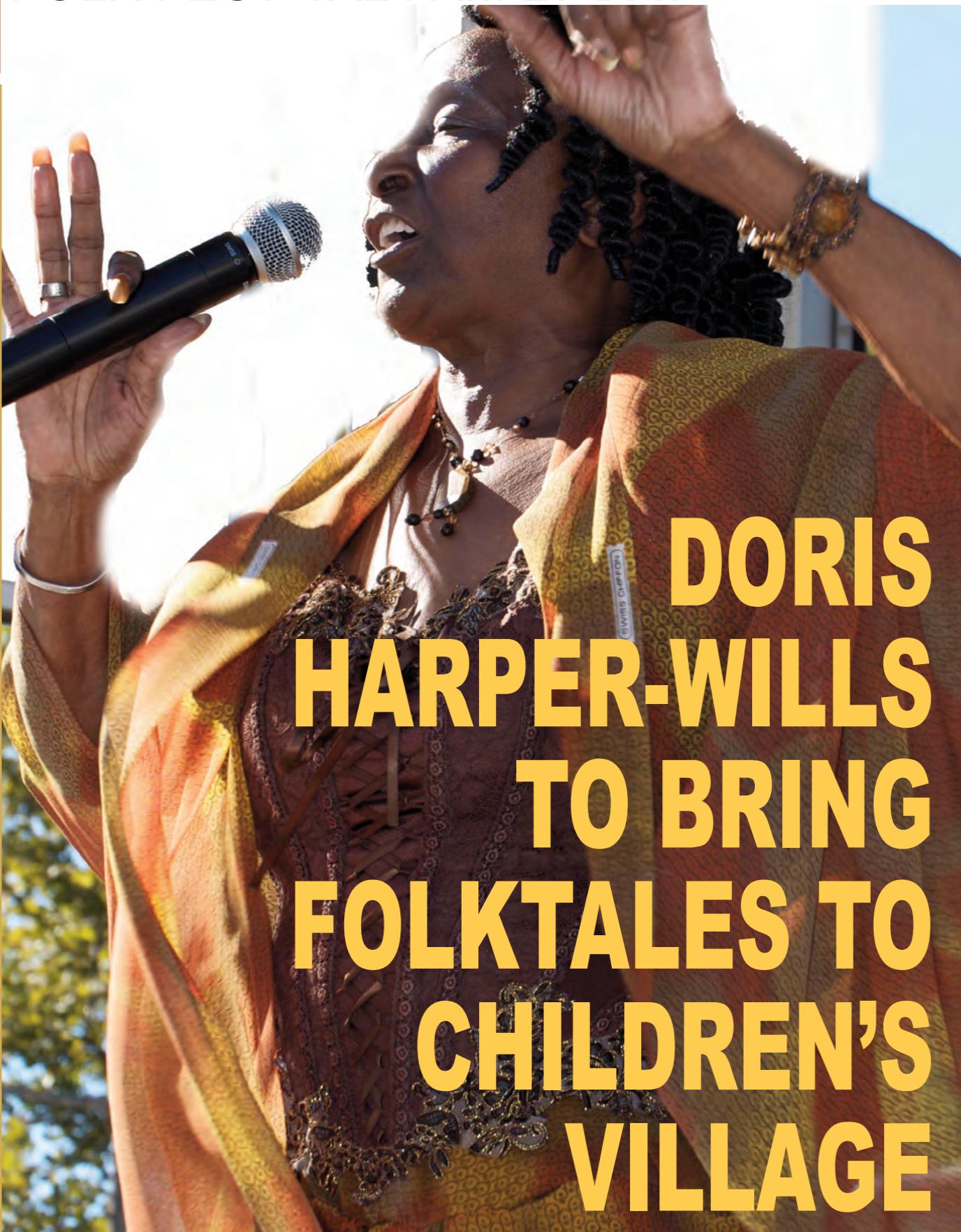
SHOWTIME-4.00 P.M.

# **We Bridgin'**

15

- ALSO • **GUYANA:** ADRIAN DUTCHIN  
KING SUFLANTIS & THE NINJA BAND  
IMPRESSIONS DANCE THEATRE & WAYNE DANIELS DANCE COMPANY  
FOLKFEST KWE KWE ENSEMBLE  
MICHELLE "BIG RED" KING      CLIFF JOSEPH      MAJEZTIQUE
- **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:**  
MOUNT GOMERY STEEL ENSEMBLE  
(Steel Orchestra, Singers & Violinist)
- **SURINAME:** KAWINA BODY & SOUL BAND
- **GRENADA:** "Special Moment Designs"
- **USA:** EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE "VOICES POETRY CLUB"  
BLACK & GOLD MARCHING ELITE BAND
- **CHINA:** RIBBON & FAN DANCERS

OTHER EXCITING ENTERTAINERS FOR  
**MAIN STAGE**  
**SHOWTIME**



**DORIS  
HARPER-WILLS  
TO BRING  
FOLKTALES TO  
CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGE**

# FAMILY FUN DAY CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

*Juliet Emanuel*

## FOLK GAMES

- LIME & SPOON
- 3-LEGGED RACE
- SACK RACES

## • KITE MAKING & FLYING COMPETITION

## PLAITING MAYPOLE

## CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

## FOLK ART COMPETITION

- Anansi
- Moongazer
- Ole Higue
- Makanaima

## MAKING FOLK TOYS

## CRAFT MAKING

## FOLKLORE PUPPETS

## STILT WALKING

Workshop  
with Julio Thijs

## MARCHING BAND & DANCERS

There is a space dedicated to children at Family Fun Day. When you enter the gates of Old Boys Field, go past the vendors on your right, turn right and head towards the back of the ground away from the main stage.

What you and your young ones will find is a well maintained expanse of soft green grass, free of extraneous traffic where children are free to run and play. There are three tents set up with chairs and tables included. There is a special stage.

On a return visit to Family Fun Day, the renowned Doris Harper-Wills will bring "teach and play" to the Children's Village. In her own inimitable style this daughter of Guyana will entertain you with our myths and show us how to observe nature around us. So join her for song, dance and drama.

You may join in the fun but let the children enjoy lime and spoon races, foot races and sack races.

This year is our kite making extravaganza. Please turn to, read and copy the five pages on kite making in this issue. The kite making competition will be fierce. Remember to make room for the kids now. Do not remark as one parent did last year, "Wait, wait, how you know I had play days? Give me a chance nuh."

You will see the well rehearsed St. Albans Church Maypole dancers, led by Claire Sandiford representing one of Guyana's well loved acts of bridging cultures, showing their motion.

There are art and exploratory experiences. Give-aways, such as school supplies, tee shirts, bags, popcorn, drinks and other treats, specially for all children will be provided, as always, by donors such of Metroplus Health Plan and Digicel Worldwide. Surrounding this children dedicated space are vendors and companies that provide information on health insurance, community safety and other child related advisory forums.

The tents and the surrounding area are a haven for parents and other care-givers. The immediate noise of the fun of Family Fun Day is distantly pleasant but audible. So drop by, even you do not have children with you on FFD. You will not miss the activity on the main stage. Instead you may even imagine that you are sitting on Kitty Seawall, feeling the breeze, knowing that the children are sharing, right here in Brooklyn, a piece of Guyana.

As one parent said at a previous Family Fun Day, "Life should be like this. Look at the children enjoying themselves, eh. So nice."

# CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

## GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL- FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2014  
FROM 2.00 P.M.

# Kite MAKING & DECORATING COMPETITION

STAR-POINT  
MAN KITES  
BOX KITES  
BIRD KITES  
CADDY-OLE-PUNCH

ENTER YOUR KITE,  
WIN PRIZES ...

### • MOST UNUSUAL KITE

Entries are judged on theme, construction and design. Judges will look for odd, striking or novel features.

### • SMALLEST KITE

Entries must fly on at least 25 feet of twine and fly higher than the point of mooring.

### • LARGEST KITE

Square footage of the sail area will determine the largest kite. Kites must be capable of flying for one minute to qualify.

### • OLDEST & YOUNGEST KITE FLYERS

Awards will also be presented to the oldest and youngest event contestants. Contestants must fly a kite unassisted to be eligible for this award.

DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE A KITE?  
CHECK OUR "HOW TO MAKE A KITE" RESOURCE

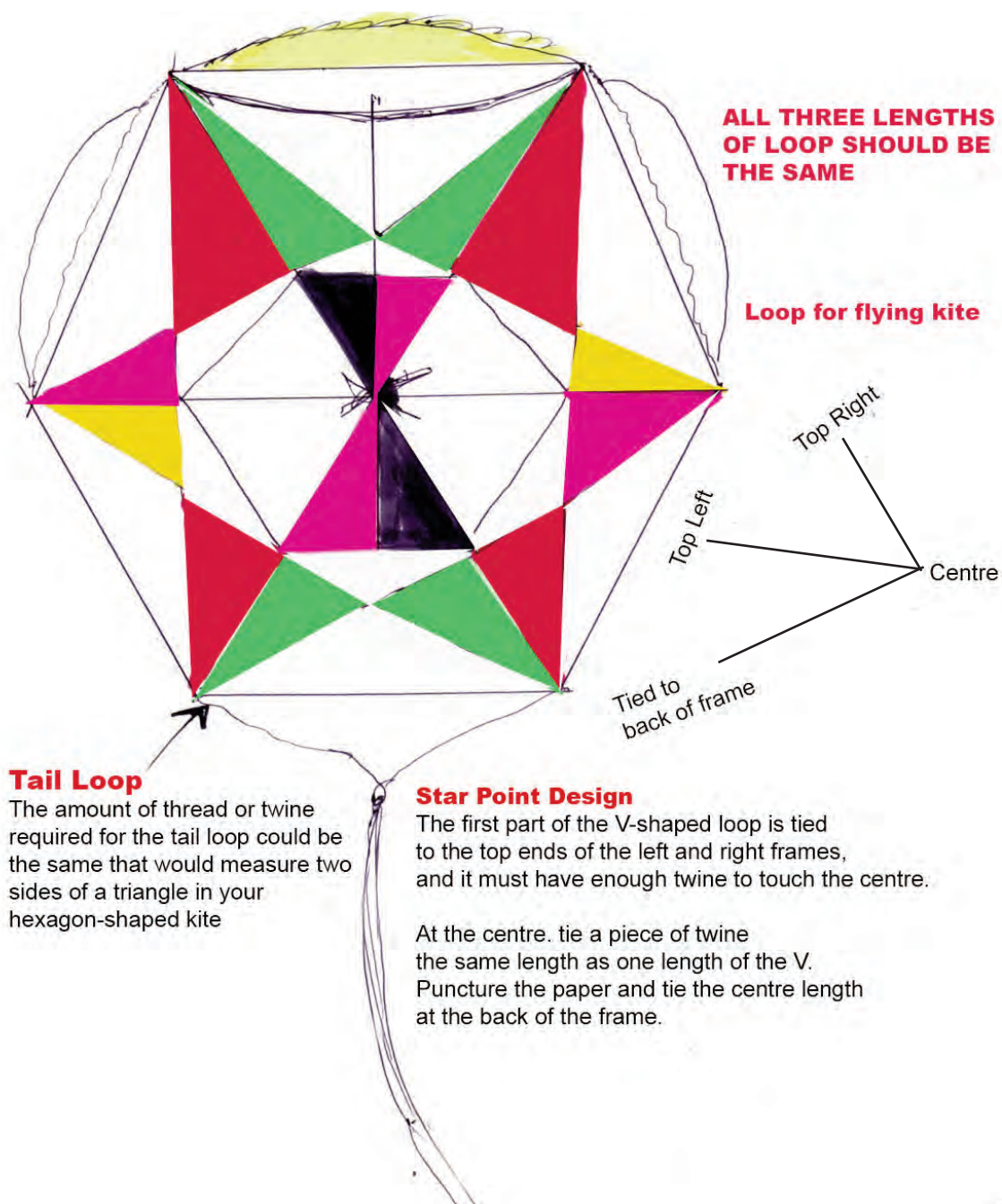
## COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

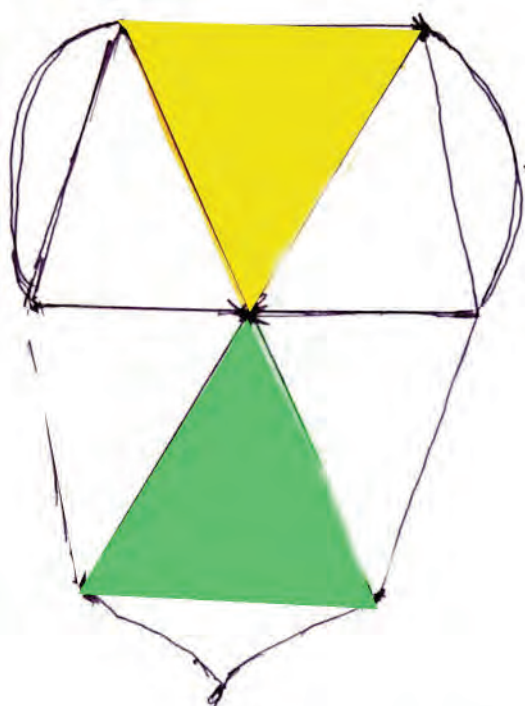
- Children under 12 eligible to participate.
- Adult category
- Each participant will make the kite of their choice and bring it to the competition.
- Parents can work with children.
- Kites must be homemade.
- Manufactured kites are not eligible.
- Panel of judges will decide the winner of the competition - the judge's decision is final.
- Exciting prizes for the top 3 winners.

# HOW TO MAKE A KITE

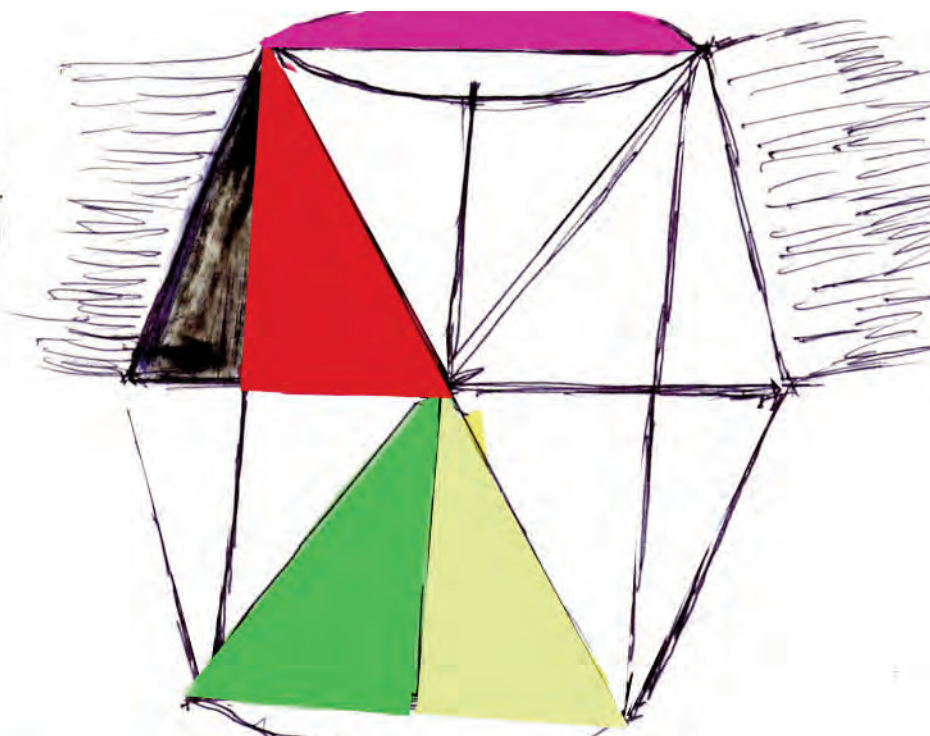
## AERODYNAMICS AND AESTHETICS

When making a kite, consider aerodynamics and aesthetics





**See Star-Point  
Design for Loop**



*Roy Brummell*

## MATERIALS

The material used to frame a kite should be light and strong. If it is not, the kite will not rise, or if it does it may snap in strong wind. Popular materials used to frame kites are: planed wood, bamboo twigs and twigs from palm branches. Perhaps, aluminum can also be used.

The weight of a kite should be proportionate to its size. For example, if a kite is one foot high, it should weigh about four to six ounces, tail included.

## CUTTING & PASTING

Shapes can be measured and cut prior to being pasted on a kite's frame or design, or the paper can be pasted on and then carefully cut as required. Regular school glue can be used for pasting, while a razor blade or a pair of scissors will handily cut the paper.

If you do not get regular, colourful kite paper, cheese wrap paper or some other will suffice. Remember to be creative, but you must also remember that your paper cannot be heavy.

## USE YOUR IMAGINATION

With a little imagination, one can make any type of kite (hexagon-shaped, bird kite, box kite, man kite, etc.), though the real challenge will be to make the appropriate loop to send it soaring into the air.

4. In the case of the hexagon-shaped kite, one can make

either a flat head kite or a head kite.

- The flat head hexagon kite requires three pieces (same length) of planed light wood, bamboo or palm branch twigs or aluminum.
- Form an x with two pieces. Make sure that the x is spread wide enough to give your kite a balanced shape. Then, place the third piece evenly across the centre of the x and strap the pieces tightly with strong thread or twine. After you've strapped the pieces, you should see six triangles. If you wish, you can cut shallow grooves at the six ends of the material used to frame your kite.
- Next, tie your thread or twine at the top of the left or right piece of framing material and run it on the grooves all around. Your hexagon is now clearly seen. (If you do not have grooves, you will have to tie your thread or twine at the ends of the pieces.

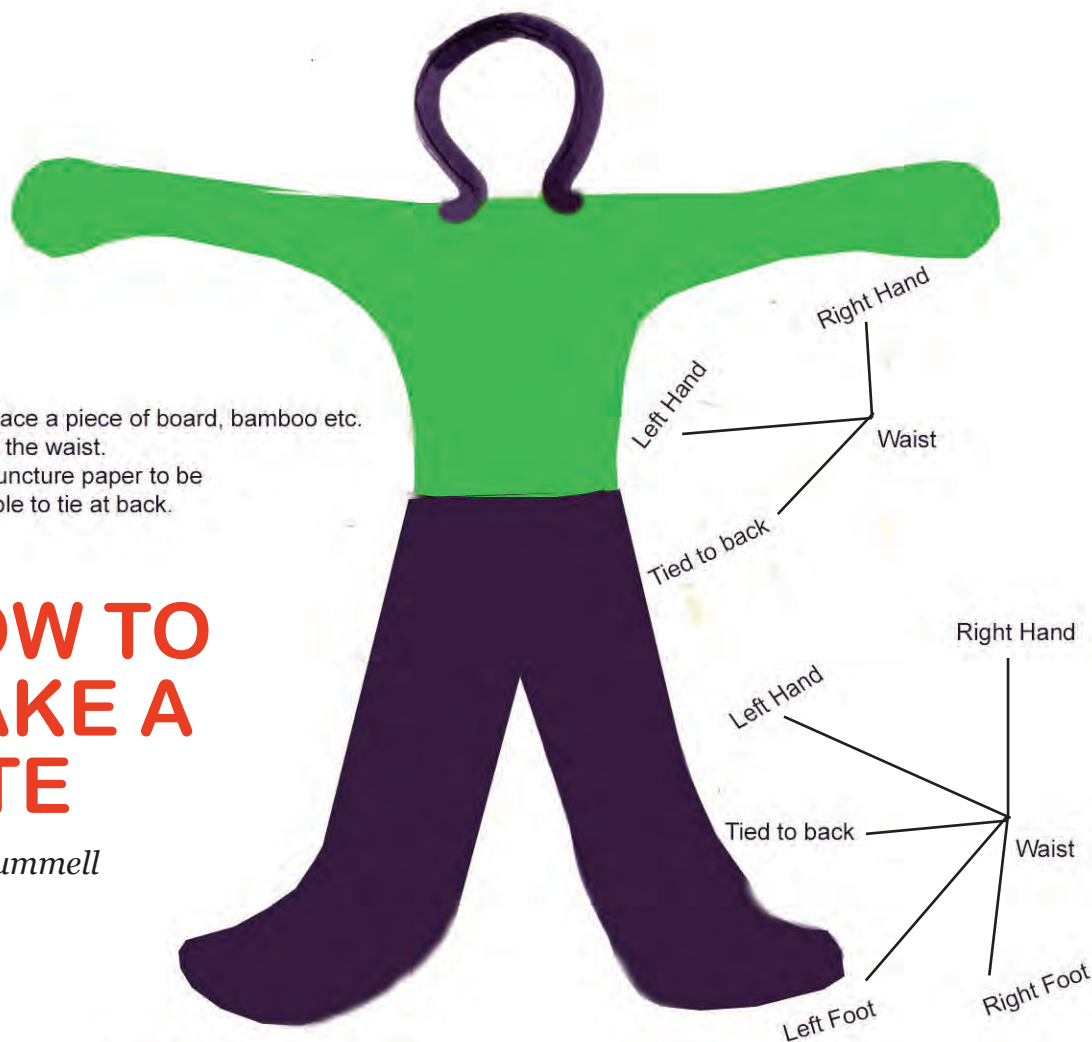
## THE SINGING "BULL" OR SINGING ENGINE

The hexagon head kite is shaped like the flat head hexagon kite, except that a fourth piece of framing material is strapped at the centre of the x. This piece is then tied to the centre of head. The head is a piece of bamboo or some other strong but supple material that is tied to the tops of the left and right pieces of framing material, and it is arched to form 180 degrees.

## HOW TO MAKE A KITE

*Roy Brummell*

Place a piece of board, bamboo etc.  
at the waist.  
Puncture paper to be  
able to tie at back.



### **Man Kite**

The twine is tied to the tips of the hands  
and the back of the waist.  
Twine for flying is tied to the twine at the waist.

With the head in place, the thread or twine behind it can now be used to paste on the 'singing bull' or the 'singing engine'. The 'singing bull' or the 'singing engine' is usually an oval or square-shaped piece of paper that is given a half inch fold and pasted on the thread or twine at the back of the head. The 'singing bull' or 'singing engine' is the full length of the thread or twine it is pasted to, but it is thinner than the space between the head and the thread or twine. This is to allow it to flutter and sing without touching the back of the head.

### **YOUR KITE'S HEAD**

If you use board that is an inch or more in width to frame your kite, it could be difficult to strap on the bamboo or other flexible material to be arched as the head. Therefore, you can use a small drill or a heated nail (be sure to hold the latter with a pair of pliers) to make a hole in the centre, near the tip of the left and

right board. Once the two separate holes are made, you can shave the ends of your bamboo or other material to fit into each, remembering to bend it to 180 degrees to form your kite's head. You can also make one hole at the bottom end of each of the same two boards to pass your thread or twine through to form the loop for your kite's tail.

### **MAKE SURE YOUR ANGLES ARE EVEN**

All other kites can be shaped as your materials and imagination will allow. Just remember that in shaping your kite, your angles have to be even. If, your angles are not even, your kite will not fly in a balanced manner.

# HOW TO MAKE A KITE

*Roy Brummell*



## Bird Kite

The twine for the loop is tied to the tips of the left and right wings and the centre of the end of the tail. The twine for flying is tied to the centre of the twine between the two wings.

Paper will have to be punctured to allow for tying of the twine.

## AESTHETICS

You may decorate your kite with ears, stars or frills.

Ears are simply pieces of paper that you paste along the top left and right corners. You can make solid square or rectangular ears, or you may make even slices to have frilly ears. If you prefer, you may make oval or heart-shaped ears. Just let your imagination go.

ward, you can now make smaller cuts along the edges or the flat parts of the paper you're holding.

All you're doing is making your stars beautiful. If you do not like stars, you may cut hearts.

All of the stars, hearts, etc are to make your kite as beautiful as you'd like.

## FLYING

### Loops, Tails

The ultimate goal of making a kite is to fly it. All kites need appropriate loops. Some kites (box kite, man kite, bird kite) may be flown without a tail, but many kites need their tails to help them fly gracefully. If a kite's tail is too light, the kite will likely fly jerkily. If it's tail is too heavy, it will either not fly or fail to remain airborne for long.

See drawings for loops.

## DECORATING YOUR KITE

### How to make a Star

- To make stars you fold a square or rectangular sheet of paper into even sections. Two folds will produce two stars; four folds four stars, etc. Just be aware that many folds are hard to cut.
- Use a pair of scissors to cut a straight line from your bottom right edge up to the centre. Then cut from the centre to the top right edge. When the piece of paper falls off, you should have a shape like the head of an arrow in your hand.
- Using the same technique of cutting inward and out-



**THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS OF  
QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF GUYANA, AND  
BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL**



Present

# LABOR DAY SUNDAY JAM

**\$25**

**VIP  
\$50**

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Dutchin & Jomo**

**9pm - 4am.  
Food and  
Drinks on sale**

**Sunday**

**August 31st., 2014**

**Pulse 48 1020 E. 48th Street, Brooklyn, NY- off Farragut Road**

## “WE BRIDGIN” - 2014 SYMPOSIUM



# CALL FOR PARTICIPATION 2014 SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 1-8, 2014 GUYANA, SOUTH AMERICA

### INTRODUCTION

This will be the third GCA symposium to be held in Guyana. It continues a partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sport. The title for the 2014 symposium signifies GCA's ongoing response to the recommendations from the 2013 "Who are we?" Symposium, which challenged participants to "[imagine] Guyana beyond Indian and African politics of race." The Report and White Paper from the 2013 symposium is available at: [http://guyfolkfest.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/reassembled\\_report\\_and\\_white\\_paper\\_final\\_without\\_overview\\_may\\_2\\_2014.pdf](http://guyfolkfest.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/reassembled_report_and_white_paper_final_without_overview_may_2_2014.pdf)

The 2014 symposium also recognizes the crucial role of the contemporary creative arts in representing Guyanese identity to local, regional, and global communities, such as the Guyanese diaspora. Further, the symposium also demonstrates GCA's continued commitment to supporting the study and celebration of Guyanese heritage along with encouraging and supporting Guyanese creativity.

### BACKGROUND

In 2013, there were substantial curricular and human resources deficiencies in Guyana's creative arts education and training curriculum. These deficiencies not only undermine the scope of Guyanese creativity; more than anything it undermines Guyana's ability to participate in the globally-connected cultural industries. The creative arts provide a language that allow Guyanese to participate in, benefit, and contribute to global conversations and creativity

The case of Lisa Punch is instructive. Lisa Punch, the Guyanese competitor on ABC's talent show "Rising Star" recently admitted during an interview show that she had no idea what "pitch" meant! She had been told by one of the show's judges that she had a pitch problem at the start of her performance. This 21-year old former Bishop's High School student who has been pursuing a career as a singer, dancer, and actor also stated during the interview that she was never exposed in Guyana to an education program that equipped her with the most elementary levels of the vocabulary of music. As Derry Etkins has noted on July 13, 2014, "talent needs to be balanced with training."

To see the Lisa Punch interview, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reQHBAjlv8&feature=share>

The current rehabilitation of Guyana's Institute of the Creative Arts (ICA) is an important step in recognition of the need for new strategies to address this crucial sector in Guyanese life in an interconnected world.

### Institute of Creative Arts

The origins of the Institute of Creative Arts (ICA) are to be found in the assessment of the state of Guyanese creative arts after Carifesta 72. That assessment resulted in the establishment of the National School of Dance (1974) and the E.R. Burrowes School of Art (1975). Plans for schools of music and creative writing were not implemented. The current version of the Institute of Creative Arts will, through the E.R. Burrowes School of Art, National School of Dance, National School of Music, the National School of Theatre, and the soon to be created National School of Creative Writing and

# CALL FOR PARTICIPATION 2014 SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 1-8, 2014  
GUYANA, SOUTH AMERICA

25

School of Media Arts will deliver the nation's pivotal creative arts curriculum. The new institute will hold its first convocation in September 2014.

Through a dynamic and high quality curriculum, the institute will have important linking roles with Guyana's secondary and post-secondary education communities, civil society, and diaspora.

The discourse on cultural policy in Guyana, including the discourse on creative arts education in Guyana can become shrill at times. However, despite the current shrillness, there is at the core, apparent agreement among crucial stakeholders on the following:

- ***Guyana needs a coherent and sustainable creative arts education and training system.***
- ***There is need for a human resources development strategy to develop and sustain the creative arts education and training system.***

The 2014 symposium will provide an opportunity to develop a strategy to respond to these twin needs.

## ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION

On Saturday, November 1, 2014, as part of the 2014 symposium, the organizers will create a videoconference "bridge" to connect Guyanese creative artists and other professionals in the diaspora with stakeholders in Guyana's curriculum for education and training in the creative arts. The primary diaspora site will be CUNY/Empire State College, Brooklyn and a venue to be determined in Georgetown.

The goal is to contribute to the creation of a sustainable system for enriching Guyana's creative arts education curriculum.

To this end, panel proposals, papers, posters, and other formats are invited on the following and related fields:

- ***Global and regional trends in creative arts education and training;***
- ***Creative arts in Guyana: origins, current state and trajectories;***
- ***Guyanese aesthetics and the cultural industries;***

In addition, the 2014 symposium will continue to promote the rehabilitation of Guyana's masquerade heritage through a workshop on masquerade costume design and manufacture on Sunday, November 2, 2014

at a venue to be identified in Guyana. Again, Guyanese at home and in the diaspora, especially those associated with the fashion arts are encouraged to participate.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be sent by September 15, 2014 to [symposium@guyfolkfest.org](mailto:symposium@guyfolkfest.org)

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

One of the successful activities during the 2012 symposium in Guyana was the visit to Victoria Village for the "Masquerade Flounce Off." In addition to supporting the rehabilitation of the art form, the visit also provided participants with an opportunity to conduct valuable research on Guyana's masquerade heritage. During November 3 to 6, symposium participants will have an opportunity to visit heritage sites and conduct research in urban and rural areas of the coast and in hinterland locations. On Saturday, November 8, symposium participants will attend celebrations in Victoria to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Guyana's first village

In summary, the objectives of the 2014 symposium are:

- ***To contribute to the development of a sustainable system for diaspora engagement with the creative arts curriculum in Guyana;***
- ***To continue GCA's commitment to the masquerade rehabilitation initiative by organizing a workshop on masquerade costume design;***
- ***To establish partnerships for the design and execution of the film and video, literary, performing arts, visual arts, and culinary arts programs to celebrate Guyana's 50th anniversary of independence in 2016 as identified in the above-mentioned Report and White Paper;***
- ***To provide opportunities for travel to heritage sites in urban, rural, and hinterland Guyana;***
- ***To participating in Victoria's 175th anniversary celebrations.***

GCA Symposium Team



# EMANCIPATION 2014:

EMANCIPATION DAY FESTIVAL 2014:

27

# REPARATIONS:

## Broken Chains Golden Dreams



**ACDA's theme for Emancipation 2014 was "Reparations: Broken Chains Golden Dreams" in recognition of the indomitable Spirit of our ancestors to demand justice and their Human Rights and to the promise of recapturing our great past while transforming that into a golden Future. The sub-theme is "Celebrating the Strength of African Womanhood".**

One of the greatest entrepreneurial acts by freed Africans in World history was the Village Movement which started in 1839. Freed Africans combined their resources to buy Villages so that they did not have to return to Plantation life and cheap punitive labor.

For Emancipation 2014, ACDA honours Queenstown Village on the Essequibo Coast. In 1840, Mr. Carberry, a planter, purchased three adjoining

## HONORING AN AFRICAN GUYANESE VILLAGE QUEENSTOWN (ESSEQUIBO COAST)

estates on the Essequibo coast, Dageraad, Mocha and Westfield and created a small town. He put in streets, divided the front lands into half acre lots which he sold for \$100, \$150 and \$220 each depending on their location in the town. These were quickly bought by other freed Africans.

On September 25, 1841, at the request of the villagers it was christened, Queenstown, by Governor Sir Henry Light. This was the beginning of the proprietary village system under which each villager held title to his individual plot of land.

## EMANCIPATION FESTIVAL 2014

This initial success led other planters to follow suit. By the end of 1841 about 18 plantations were offering land for sale or lease on the Essequibo coast and the practice soon spread to the counties of Demerara and Berbice.

Not all of the planters agreed with that policy. The shrewder amongst them recognized that if the ex-apprentices could live on land on or near the plantation, enough to satisfy their desire for a home but not enough to grow food to support their families, then they would have to continue to work on the nearby plantation.

By the end of the first year after apprenticeship about 267 cottages had been constructed on plots half to one third of an acre in size. As expected, the ex-apprentices continued to work on the nearby estates.

## HONORING AN AFRICAN GUYANESE VILLAGE- QUEENSTOWN

(ESSEQUIBO COAST)



# Tutorial High Alumni Reunion Celebrates 75th Anniversary in Guyana:

## Selected Observations

Lear Matthews

The 12th International Triennial Reunion of Tutorial High School was held in Guyana July 27th to August 3rd. Throngs of alumni, supporters and friends converged on the homeland to celebrate with current students, the 75th anniversary of the institution's establishment.

### Promoting the theme "Celebrating the Past, Challenging the Present, Creating the Future,"

the event was ably hosted by the Guyana Chapter. As part of the planned activities, many participants attended the historic Afro centric Emancipation Day Celebration at the National Park on August 1st.

The week long calendar of events reflected the multi-faceted purpose of the historic commemorative gathering. The opening event was the church service, held in the school's court yard with a resounding welcome by the President of the Guyana chapter, Mr. Desmond Sears, and artistic performances by students in uniform. This was followed by a Reception, during which estranged former classmates embraced while belting out salutations of camaraderie, surprise, joy, admiration, and other such sentiments exhibited throughout the week.

One of the highlights was the Awards Ceremony. Awardees included current and former students. The guest speaker, Ms. June Ann Castello, daughter of the founding principal Austin Castello, delivered a classic example of good speech and education, which elated the THS community. The theme was "*A Dream of Excellence*". She fervently pronounced that "for generations to come this excellence and dreams of extending and perfecting it will be the defining hallmark of Tutorial High School, its alumni and all who are associated with it". She concluded with the poignant lyrics: *Wid you riddim, wid you rime, wid you ruff base line, wid you own sense of time – You can and must make it happen.*

The business meeting, held at the school, focused on plans for the institution's development and sustenance. Overseas-based alumni were able to see the facilities and programs they help to fund and support. Organized Tours to the majestic Kaieteur Falls and Baganara Resort gave attendees a chance to see the

natural beauty of their homeland. The "Folk and Wild" meat night held at one of the school's former locations, Malteenoes Sports Club, offered appetizing local cuisine.

The Oldies/Back-in-Time Dance, All White-attired party, and Grand Gala Dinner and Ball were ideal for participants to "dress up" and showcase their grace on the dance floor with both old and newly acquired rhythmic moves, which they did with unbridled courage and risk. Courtesy calls were made to the President's Office, the Minister of Trade and Tourism, and the Mayor's Office. Although mutually civil and informative, concerns were expressed about the unsanitary conditions in some sections of Georgetown and the impact on civic life, including the educational environment. The week's activities culminated with the fun-filled Sports Day where understandably, alumni were less willing to demonstrate their athletic prowess"

Many celebrants seized the chance to return home after residing overseas for an extended period. It was common to hear participants describe the reunion experience as: "*emotional*"; "*wonderful*"; "*great to be home*", "*nostalgic*", and "*de place change up*". Interacting and reminiscing with former classmates appears to put us in a kind of throwback comfort zone, although for some, the potential for tension looms from re-establishing contact with High School romantic interests.

Several attendees engaged in humanitarian/community service via visits and donations to local institutions including the Mahaica Children's Home, Archer Poor Home in Georgetown, and St. John Bosco Orphanage in Plaisance.

The Souvenir Journal and the Sports Magazine distributed at the reunion captured important dimensions of the school's legacy and history in Academia and Athletics. Unfortunately, there were a few unreasonable myopic critics, who focused on minor organizational glitches, which are inevitable in hosting such a huge event.

Congratulations to the hosts: A great "Bridgin" reunion!

# 12th International Tutorial Reunion





# Dr. Enid L. Denbow

A REMARKABLE MENTOR,  
AN INSPIRATION TO AND  
CHAMPION FOR WOMEN



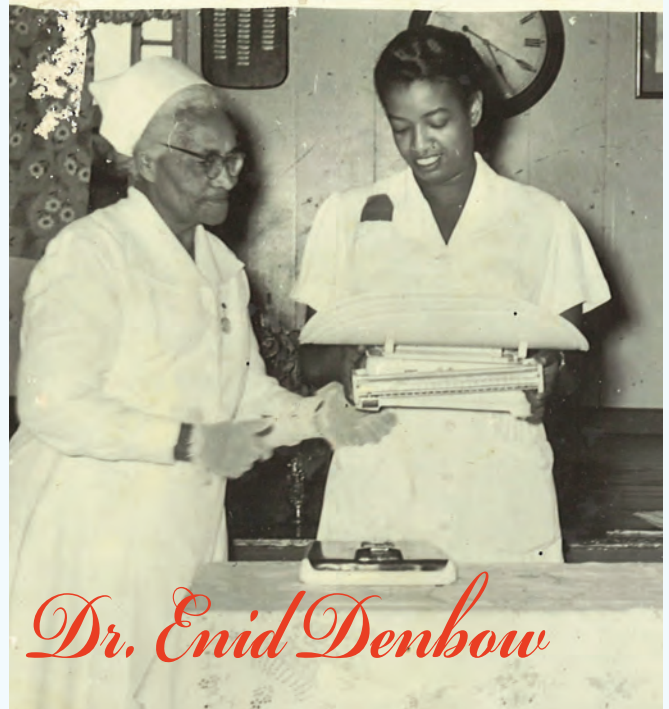
## BEST WISHES ON YOUR 93RD. BIRTHDAY

*Frank Denbow*

**E**nid Lucille Denbow, MD was born to Edwin and Verleigh Wilson on August 3, 1921. She is one of three siblings who resided with their parents at GG Hadfield Street. By age 22, Dr. Denbow had lost both of her parents.

Dr. Denbow attended St. Joseph's High School. Upon graduating, she became a Pupil Nurse at Georgetown Hospital and earned the highest score nationally on both the Nursing and Midwifery Examinations. She matriculated to Howard University in 1948, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology and earned her medical degree from Women's Medical College, Philadelphia in 1955. Her additional accomplishments include earning the prestigious Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, England, being awarded a Cardiology Fellowship from the world-renowned Johns Hopkins University Hospital and becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Her stellar academic and professional performance vaulted her to the top of the medical field in Guyana.

Beginning early in her career, Dr. Denbow has been an inspiration to and champion for women. Her first fight on behalf of women occurred when she persuaded her father to allow her youngest sister, Jossie, to attend secondary school. One of the greatest sources of pride for her has been the number of women who requested that she be godmother to their daughters. Today, she is the second mother to numerous young women many of whom have excelled in their chosen fields of study around the world. Dr. Denbow has always had an infectious sense of humour, warmth and great love for children. This is exemplified by the children's party that she hosts each year as a part of her birthday celebration. On those occasions, it's remarkable and heart-warming to see the degree to which the children, from toddler to teen, flock around her and seem to bask in that ray of sunlight that is her personality. The single word that best describes Enid Lucille Denbow, MD is "remarkable"!



*To this day she maintains a deep affection for her nursing colleagues who on her return to B.G in 1956 as a Government Medical Officer she was presented with a scale by some Senior Nurses from the Georgetown Hospital.*



*The year 2000*

# Waveney Benjamin M.S.

FOUNDER OF BRANCHES OF THE MOTHERS' UNION IN ALL PARTS OF GUYANA & THE CARIBBEAN

She was born in Georgetown on November 16, 1932 to the late Hyacinth Harewood nee Lampley (fondly known as 'Mother') and the late Colvin Albert Harewood, a well-known tailor of Barbadian parentage. Waveney was the fourth of eight siblings – namely Marjorie De Younge, Enid Allen, Elsa Phillipe, Carlton Harewood, Daphne Hinds, Gloria Layne and Hector Harewood.

Her primary education was obtained at the Kingston Methodist School. Having done well at the Government County Scholarship examination, she was enrolled at the Modern High School. Although she was eligible to attend Bishops' High School, she would have had to be a fee-paying student, so her father resolved to have her attend Modern High School to which she had obtained a scholarship. During her secondary education she excelled in Mathematics. She was proud to proclaim that she tutored fellow students, one of whom went on to become a medical doctor. This aptitude she used to assist her older children specializing in algebra, until the advent of modern mathematics. Waveney later became a secondary school teacher.

At an early age she got married to Neil Sigismund Parkinson Benjamin. This union was entirely understandable as he lived at 318 East Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown with his father while Waveney lived in her father's house next door at 317 East Street. Neil Benjamin predeceased her on December 11, 1984 as a priest and Canon of the Stall of St. George of the Anglican Diocese of Guyana and retired Chaplain of the Guyana Defence Force. Waveney and Neil Benjamin nurtured seven children: Neil Jr., Alan, Kenneth, Marcia, Judy, Rosemary and Denys.

During the early years of her married life, Waveney was a full time housewife. She could be seen riding a bicycle around town shopping with a least one child sitting on the back. It is during this period of her life that she joined the branch of the Mothers' Union (MU) at Christ Church. She would eventually become the Enrolling Member of the Christ Church branch. She was a full active member of the Mothers' Union and a staunch church goer at Christ Church.



Waveney gave yeoman service for twenty years as Diocesan Worker of the Mothers' Union (MU) from 1974 – 1994, with many interesting experiences to share: some harrowing and life-threatening; some inspirational; some (in retrospect) amusing. This was in the course of regular visits as part of her annual work programme for the Mothers' Union in strengthening the organization that promotes improving Christian family life, motherhood and marriage, and thereby improving the lives of all.

She started and helped in the sustaining of many branches of the MU, including several in interior locations as well as Surinam where links were established. Endless miles were covered to reach branches in Essequibo, Berbice and all corners of Demerara-

- Orealla, an Amerindian reservation on the Corentyne River
- Annai, Rupununi where she walked long distances across the Rupununi savannahs
- Kamarang, and Jawalla where getting there by aircraft and then speedboat, was the challenge of a lifetime
- Pomeroon, braving the deep and unforgiving waters of the Pomeroon River to reach members at Kabacaburi, and Essequibo River
- Sand Hills on the Berbice River travelling in a ferry for over twelve (12) hours.

In her tenure as Diocesan Worker, the MU Guyana began a Day Care Center at Oronoque and Almond Streets in Queenstown and later opened another branch, both of which still exist in Georgetown today. She also coordinated feeding programs which ran for several years to assist children who were in need thus ensuring their nourishment and sustenance.



# Waveney Benjamin M.S.

In the wider Caribbean, Waveney was a founding member of the Provincial Mothers' Union which includes representatives of the MU of several Caribbean countries who collaborate for the strengthening of relations among countries.

The risk and the hard work were all worth it since women far and wide were brought the message of Christian family life and marriage and willingly formed themselves into branches and worked together in their churches. Waveney has always been grateful for the good relationship she enjoyed with parish priests and the women of the churches who were very cooperative, receptive and hard working. Even after she retired she would still meet persons who lovingly greeted her and remembered her for her work with the Mothers' Union.

While serving as Diocesan Worker, Waveney maintained association with and membership of the World Day of Prayer National Committee. She served as Vice President for the Southern Hemisphere. She was an active member of Church Women United, planning seminars, bible study and retreats for strengthening and upliftment of the membership. She served as General Secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) for four (4) years. She collaborated with the Women's Affairs Bureau within the Ministry of Labour on projects to improve the lives of women in the interior especially; also with the Caribbean Women's Association (CARIWA) and the Women's League of Social Services. She served for many years as a Trustee of the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA) as it carried out its mandate of helping young people and citizens at large.

She also participated in: extension seminary courses sponsored by the Caribbean and Guyana Council of

Churches; Mothers' Union Workers and missionary courses in England; small business management with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA); and the General Secretary's course of the YWCA. She had the honour and the privilege of representing some of the above associations at critical meetings and courses in Guyana and abroad, and was able to continuously apply the knowledge gained for advancement of women and people in the church and wider community.

Waveney travelled far and wide internationally – Australia, South Africa, England, Canada, Switzerland, Uruguay, Curacao and several Caribbean territories including Antigua/Barbuda, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, St. Vincent and Grenadines, St. Lucia, Barbados, Belize, Trinidad & Tobago, Tortola, BVI and Grenada. This was in addition to her frequent trips to the US and the United Kingdom to visit family and friends.

In 1991, in recognition of her long and dedicated service as a social and community worker with the Diocesan Mothers' Union, Waveney was bestowed by Guyana with a National Award – the Medal of Service (M.S.). The Women's Affairs Bureau also recognized her work with women with an award (for work which included the formulation and submission of a project proposal that resulted in funding for and building of a well in Yakarinta, Rupununi).

All the foregoing experiences were wonderful and enriching and Waveney was profoundly grateful to God that she was still able to meaningfully serve others and improve their lives.

Waveney Agatha Benjamin peacefully departed this life on July 30, 2014.

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**The 18th Annual**

# GUYANESE

## Family Reunion Picnic in the Park

UNDER THE KIND PATRONAGE AND ATTENDANCE OF  
THE GUYANA HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE UK

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2014**  
**@ Morden Park**

London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5QX -Adjacent to Merton College)  
10 mins walk from Morden tube station. 5 mins walk from Morden South train station. On bus routes 80, 93, 154

**ENTRY £2 - Time: 1pm-7:15pm**

**Music Powered EASY Soundz**

**DJEMRON, RadioGuyana.fm, Digital D, Sweet K, Blazing Chutney, Soca, Reggae Etc.**

Sport Activity inc. Cricket, Volleyball, Dominoes Competition, Children & Grand Parents Race Etc.

Health & Safety Do Not Buy Food from Anyone on the Day in the Park.

Bring your Own Food, Cooler, Drink, Table & Chairs Is available at a Cost.

Kids First Fund stall for all Guyana souvenirs, craft, flags, achar, geera, limocol etc.

All proceeds go to helping sick children in Guyana.

This Event is Sponsored by: Inter Island Shipping  
Raffle on Sale, Great Prizes.

**Everyone Welcomed!**



**THE GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF MONTREAL**

*Cordially invites you to commemorate it's*

**47<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
at a  
Banquet & Ball**

**Saturday, September 13th, 2014**

**EVEAGREEN RECEPTION HALL**

**5011 Buchan, Montreal, Qc. Canada**

**\$75.00 per person - \$40.00 Dance only**

**ENTERTAINMENT:**

**Hilton` Bamboo Fire` Hemerding  
Guyana`s No. 1 Folk Singer**

**Cocktails: 6:00 p.m**

**Dinner 7:00 p.m.**

**Open Bar**

**DRESS FORMAL**

**Open Bar**

**Music by:D.J. Thomas**

**FOR TICKETS / RESERVATIONS CALL**

**Ellis:450.632.6179 . Mariette: 450.443.2700**

**Sandra: 514.443.3226 . Leebeert: 450.445.0747**