

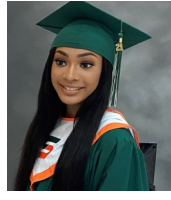
GAOG Holds 3rd annual Youth Symposium



ZARI
MASSAY



SHAUNA
STEWART



KEYERA
JOSEPHS



EVELYN
SIMON

Guyana Association of Georgia celebrated its 30th anniversary by honoring students of all levels with scholarships at the annual scholarship banquet held on October 2nd, 2021. This year, with the Covid-19 pandemic ever present, a hybrid version was held. A small number of guests along with the recipients were allowed in person at the venue and several guests attended via zoom.



DR. GILLIAM
DAVIS



MAYA
THOMPSON



KEIGELL
CARROLL



KYLA
RICHBURG

Seon Rodney, Marlene Clarke, and Austin Thompson were the co-hosts the ceremony this year. The theme of the night was 'Emerging With Resilience.' keynote speaker, the Honorable Judge Hollie Veal, informed all present that communities are formed by people coming together in specific ways. She reminded recipients that "personal resilience is great, but community resilience is even better."

Performances for the night were done by Natasha Clarke-Grant and J. Labron. The Academic Scholarship recipients this year were Zari Massay, Shauna Steward, Keyera Josephs, Evelyn Simon. Dr. Gillian Davis received this year's Caribbean International Shipping Scholarship.

Maya Thompson received the Community Award from The Tinto Family, Keyera Josephs and Keigell Carroll (in Guyana) received the Libra Management Entrepreneurship Award. Kyla Richburg was the recipient of, Haven Developmental Award and Shauna Stewart received the GAOG Volunteer Award.

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Judge Hollie Veal delivers the Keynote address.



President Merlyn Osborne and Vice President Slater Jeffrey present the Scholarship Award

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Inside the GAOG

GAOG Holds Second Annual Vending Day



This year the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. held its 2nd annual Vending Day at its head quarters in Lithonia. There were several members there displaying their goods from art pieces (Kim George, above) to hand made crafts and healing oils. Due to the weather the turn out was not as robust as last year but everyone had fun. The Association looks forward to hosting next years vending event which will be bigger and better.

See more here from the Vending Day. <https://www.facebook.com/GuyanaAssociationOfGeorgia/photos/b.3017683211836245/3017682725169627/>

GAOG Feed the Homeless Program



Past President, Marilyn Farley Thompson (L) & Current President Merlyn Osborne Loading food items for Feed the Homeless. (Right) Dropping bags off at the Church.

The GAOG was honored to be able to continue its annual "Feed the Homeless" tradition on Sunday, September 12, 2021. The Committee was again chaired by Mrs. Marilyn Farley-Thompson with assistance from other members. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trinity Church asked us provide over 100 bags of non perishable ready to eat food items for the people that they serve. On Saturday, September 11, 2021, members of the Committee gathered at the Secretariat to prepare the bags and they were delivered to the Trinity Community Church in downtown Atlanta for distribution on Sunday by Mrs. Donna Tinto. We are always grateful to be able to serve the community and thank the Committee members for their ongoing commitment to this endeavor.

Gail Cassar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elections—Oct 15th 2021

Nominations for elections concluded in the October GMM 2021 meeting. Three candidates were nominated for two Trustee positions. Current Trustee and nominee Marcus Gordon respectfully rescinded his acceptance of his nomination. This allowed the other two Nominees, Dr. Gilliam Davis and Cleveita Brown to become the newly nominated Board members for the Year 2022.

GAOG Holds 3rd annual Youth Symposium



This year the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. held it's annual Youth Symposium via zoom. Students participated in math and science problem solving . Guest facilitators were Dr. Ayanna Bernard and Trustee Seon Rodney. The event was coordinated by the Youth and Culture team.

Scholarship Awards cont'd

The night concluded with an Award of Excellence for Judge Holly Veal, the Leadership Award for Dr. Conrad Wilson (GAOG's first President), Neville, and Marrie George, (Community care award) Gail Lyte, (The Business Award), and Waveney Coppin, (The Milestone & Service Award). This year's lifetime Awards went to Past President Carl Lashley, Thelma Williams, and Marcus Gordon.

-Cleveita Brown-

WHATS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

COVID-19 Updates. ARE YOU WEARING THAT MASK?



We are assuming that you did take the crucial step of getting vaccinated. The virus has hurt and is hurting all of our communities but we the people of color, continue to be on the frontlines of vulnerability due to neglect to healthcare, both past and present, and systemic bigotry by our policy makers.

The Federal Government has recently been making efforts to address some of these issues, by mandating vaccines but people continue to resist the vaccine until they have been infected before accepting the validity of the effectiveness of the vaccines. The hospital beds continue to be filled to capacity and unfortunately are being staffed by the same battle weary doctors and nurses who have been at the frontlines for the last 18 plus months.

Covid-19 Booster Shots

The Federal health officials largely remain in wait-and-see mode on COVID booster side effects and have signaled the potential benefits of boosters likely outweigh their risks and It won't be possible to officially track booster side effects there's more solid guidance and data. Stay safe and follow the Stats of cases by clicking on the link below.

[Covid - 19 Stats in Georgia](#)



**The Health & Wellness Committee
of the
GUYANA ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA**
*Invites you to
Support the Fighters
Celebrate the Survivors
Honor the Taken
And Never Ever Give Up
HOPE*
*"A Celebration of Survival of our Friends & Relatives
& Tribute to those departed"*

WHEN: After the Walk for Breast Cancer on
Saturday, October 23, 2021
TIME: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
WHERE: GAOG (Guyana Association of Georgia)
1970 Panola Road, Lithonia 30058

One Free Refreshing Drink for every guest
 Free Food and Complimentary Gift for registered Survivors
 (Survivors interested in receiving gift,
kindly register: call or text 404-883-8505)
 Delicious Food & Snacks on Sale

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COVID-19 The Guyana Situation.



Photo credit: US Embassy Guyana

Covid continues to be the "talk of the town" in Guyana.

Objections to mandatory vaccination continued in various forms which included calls to Gordon Mosley's programme and picketing exercises. The square of the revolution was the place for one such picketing, and the front of the Ministry of Education on Brickdam and Linden.

It was decided that vaccination for children twelve to seventeen years of age must be taken. The Pfizer Vaccine was sourced and children whose parents agreed, began receiving the first dose on Thursday, August 26, 2021. The vaccines are mandatory, but parents had to give approval for the children to be vaccinated and be present when the child is being vaccinated.

Schools Reopening

Primary and Nursery Schools were scheduled to be opened on September 6, 2021. Concerns were expressed about the opening of school because it was going to be in person meeting in the classroom. The Nursery schools were to have 5 children for a session. These sessions were scheduled to be 8am to 10am and 11am to 1pm, this schedule was put in place because children is not supposed to wear mask longer than two hours. The period between the sessions were to be used for sanitization purposes.

The Primary school grade 6 or common entrance class, was scheduled to go to school all week, the other grades one day weekly. The number of children in each class is dependent on the school's classroom size and capacity.

However there were issues with school closings because teachers, students and/or cleaners tested positive for Covid. The length of closure was dependent on the time needed to sanitize the building, etc.ed various times, for example, a child from a Primary School in Georgetown it was alleged came from a home where someone in that home was tested positive. That school was closed for two days for the necessary cleaning.

GTU - Guyana Teachers Union had proposed a three days strike action from Wednesday September 8th to Friday September 10th, 2021. This action was intended to address mat-

ters affecting several teachers, such as being locked out of their schools because they were unvaccinated. Some claimed to have underlying causes which is not being addressed and some are pregnant.

A 13-year-old girl from Parika/Salem Secondary school, West Coast Demerara collapsed less than five minutes after receiving her first dose of the Pfizer covid vaccine." According to her mother, she complained of wanting to vomit then fainted, she also lost her vision for a short while. She was taken to the Leonora Cottage Hospital, West Coast Demerara.

In Guyana, the Government Secondary schools and Private schools are doing phased openings with the option of in person versus virtual classes, also all of the students would be grouped in this manner, all vaccinated students would attend classes on the same days and unvaccinated would attend classes together.

Remember the Christmas day radio show, "this is Guyana, and its no big thing"

-Janet Patterson, Guyana-



Is Suh Dey Seh

You know you Guyanese if
you know what a Packoo is.

Small Days

Do you remember...?

Jumble stories were mostly told during blackouts or twilight time. That used to put the fear of Jesus in yuh tail. Especially when de jumble stories are being told in front of the yard and you living at the last house down in the yard, Lord help me!

You wanted to hear what grandfather had to say but nobody wanted to close their eyes to go to sleep, and getting up to go to the outhouse or the bathroom was out if de question!

-Rochelle Carroll-



Executive Board

President– Merlyn Osborne
Vice President– Slater Jeffrey
Secretary– Juanita Benjamin
Asst. Secretary– Cheryl Hodge
Treasurer– Kenneth Chapman
Asst. Treasurer– Donna Tinto
Parliamentarian– Fitzstephen Griffith

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Stacey Mollison
Robert Charles
Carol Baggot
Seon Rodney

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Communications & Publicity–
Dale Calender, Shena Applewhaite
Education– Dr. Ayanna Bernard
Finance–
Claire Wilson Daley, Marlene Clark
Health & Wellness–
Hazel Marshall, Lisa Prince
Homeland & International–
Dr. Stacy Forrester.
Hospitality & Humanitarian–
Marilyn Farley-Thompson, Yolanda
Sinclair.
Membership– Gail Lyte., Slater Jeffrey
Sponsorship– Verdine Benn
Youth & Culture– Natasha Clarke

Editor's Corner

Greetings Members, Friends and Sponsors,

September and October were big months in the GAGO! We had our Second Annual Vending Day. October saw us celebrating our 30th Anniversary and 28th scholarship Banquet. In spite of the Pandemic, all precautions were taken so that the recipients could received their gifts in person as they were able.

As we wrap up the year and move through Breast Cancer Awareness month and Domestic Violence month this October, there will be events to commemorate the latter. There will also be elections for two trustee positions in November. The GAOG will wrap up December with Christmas Festivities.

-Shena Applewhaite-



August Birthdays

Maureen Ogle,
Desiree Blair,
Donna DeGroot,
Esme DeCruiz, S
eon Rodney,
Philip Andrews,

Keith Williams,
Lisa Prince,
Andrea Fraser,
Claire Wilson-Daly,
Jawara Mars,
Desiree Wilburg.



Our Condolences

The President, Executive Board, and members of the Guyana Association of Georgia wish to express our sincere condolences to our past Vice President and Lifetime Member Claud London and his family on the loss of his mother, Josephine Maud London. She was also the aunt of our Treasurer, Kenneth Chapman. Mrs. London departed on September 27th in Brooklyn NY and was laid to rest last Monday, October 4th.

Our condolences also go out to GAOG Member Maureen John on the loss of her sister, Marion Ferrier of Queenstown, Georgetown Guyana. Ms. Ferrier passed away on Wednesday, October 5th in Guyana and was laid to rest on Monday October 11th in Guyana.

Thank you to all our sponsors, members and volunteers who have worked hard to make 2020-2021 successful despite the difficult Covid 19 pandemic. We look forward to your continued support in the future!

Thank you

From the President and Board of the GAOG



You can Find us here!    

NEWS and VIEWS is a monthly publication of the Guyana Association of Georgia, Inc. P.O. Box 360744, Decatur, GA, 30036. The views expressed herein are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Guyana Association of Georgia. The Communication Committee reserves the right to edit the content and/or length of all submissions. You can contact us at info.gaog@gmail.com, visit us at www.gaog.org, follow us on Twitter @guyanaofga, or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GuyanaAssociationOfGeorgia and YouTube.

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