



NEWS AND VIEWS

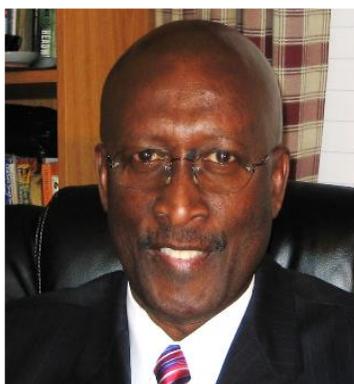
GAOG Newsletter

Spring Edition

March 2016 Vol. 1

From the desk of the President

The 50th/25th Jubilee Anniversaries



The Guyana Association of Georgia like most organizations in the diaspora, will join Guyanese all over the world in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Guyana, with a number of activities.

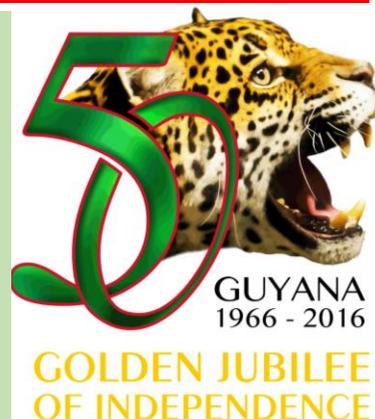
Although a contingent of Guyanese will leave the Georgia area for Guyana, the GAOG and Guyanese in Georgia will be celebrating this important milestone in true Guyanese fashion. The 50th Anniversary committee met and identified a number of activities which also will coincide with the 25th Anniversary of the birth of the GAOG. The week long activities will commence with an Anniversary church service, and will continue throughout the week with a Cocktail reception and exhibition of books by Guyanese authors, a business expo, a mini health fair and live broadcast by President Granger at 12.00 midnight and Cultural night just to mention a few of the activities. More information will be made available later.



Guyana Celebrates its 50th Independence Anniversary

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana will celebrate a huge milestone this year as 50 years of Independence from Great Britain approaches. The air is heavy with anticipation of the festivities and celebrations to come.

Cont'd on page 8



Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. Celebrates 25 Years of Community Service & Excellence.



This year is an exciting year for the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. as it celebrates its Silver Jubilee. The organization has several activities planned including the Memorial weekend Festivities, Scholarship Ball and Banquet and brunch and Tea Party.

Cont'd on pg. 6

Judge Stephen Knights Jr Runs for Superior Court Judge in Clayton County.



This past February, Guyanese born Judge Stephen Knights of Clayton County, GA, addressed members at the GAOG General Members Meeting in Lithonia. Judge Stephen N. Knights Jr. is running for Superior court Judge in Clayton County in the May 2016 Elections. His experience is extensive in criminal law and practice. Judge Knights attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City where he majored in Criminology, with a minor in Psychology. He then worked with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) in New York. . In 2006, he became an Assistant Solicitor General with the Clayton County Solicitor General's Office in Jonesboro, Georgia.

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INSIDE THE GAOG

The GAOG 5th Annual Brunch



Left: Guests Attending the Brunch. Right: President of the GAOG Dr. Thomas welcomes Guests to the 5th Annual Brunch.

On March 19th the Guyana Association of Georgia held its 5th Annual Brunch at the Holy Cross Episcopal Church in DeKalb County GA. This event was well attended as guests came out to support this fund raiser. Emcee and past president Phillip Andrews effortlessly chaired the event and engaged guests. This year's theme was rivers of Guyana which was reflected in the table décor. Many guests took the opportunity to mingle and reminisce. After brunch was served everyone was treated to an array of entertainment from local talent.

Those present were treated to Guyanese cuisine and entertainment from Guyanese and American talent. All were entertained by Ncasey Freeman's classical rendition. This was followed by JC and The Cool Crew completing several group dances. Finally Joel Cruickshank serenaded guests with his saxophone renditions.

The Brunch Committee and the Board would like to take this opportunity to thank all guests and sponsors who made this event possible.

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH, 2016

The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.

Silver Jubilee

Family Fun Day

Famous Artists, Queh Queh Dancers, Khathak Dancers, Tassa Drummers & much more!

SAVE THE DATE!

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON.



Email GAOG your articles, poems, recipes, social events, anniversaries, graduations ...

Deadline for next newsletter is November 30th 2015 (info@gaog.org)

Visit us on facebook or at www.gaog.org

The Committees Report

Building Committee

Goals 2016: To ensure the general maintenance and upkeep of the building through refurbishing and holding cleanup activities. Work on obtaining a special use permit from DeKalb County for the property.



Team: Dennis Belgrave (Chairperson), Neal Wray.

Projects 2016:

1. Schedule two fund raisers for the year: One in the spring and another in the summer.
2. Schedule a spring property cleanup to include all members and the board
3. Coordinate with the Treasurer the budget for possible long term expansion or further modification of the building structure. Maintain a list of quotes for use of the GAOG building.

How can you contribute?

Sign up for the building committee or assist us in the cleanup and maintenance activities.

Dennis Belgrave - Dennis9321@att.net



Communications/Publicity Committee

Goal 2016: to work mainly through the media of the GAOG Website, Facebook page and the Newsletter to continue promoting the association's community outreach programs, activities, events and efforts.



Team: Shena Applewhaite (Chairperson), Lyndelle Isaacs-Heyliger, Lawrence Prescott,

Projects 2016:

- 1 Collaborate with other committees to further connect members, promote the association's special projects & events, and generate good will for the association.
2. Continue to update the Association's website to accurately reflect the organization's mission, vision and current activities.
- 3 Promote the association's accomplishments and provide a medium to express Guyanese and Guyanese American culture, history and achievements through Facebook.
4. Publish the quarterly newsletter (News and Views).

How can you contribute?

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

Shena Applewhaite – shena_a@yahoo.com



Education Committee

Goal 2016: To plan for all phases of the Educational programs for GAOG and promote and provide programs and practices that will enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of students and young adults.



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

Projects 2016:

1. Hosting several Educational "Topic of Interest" Presentations for the Youth and Adults e.g. Personal development, Finance and Investing.
2. Continue with our tutoring/mentoring program for CRCT, PSAT and SAT.
3. Provide student development and support through the Annual scholarship Program.
4. New this year we will provide support to Adult Career Advancement.
5. We will plan and organize the Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet and Anniversary Dance

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

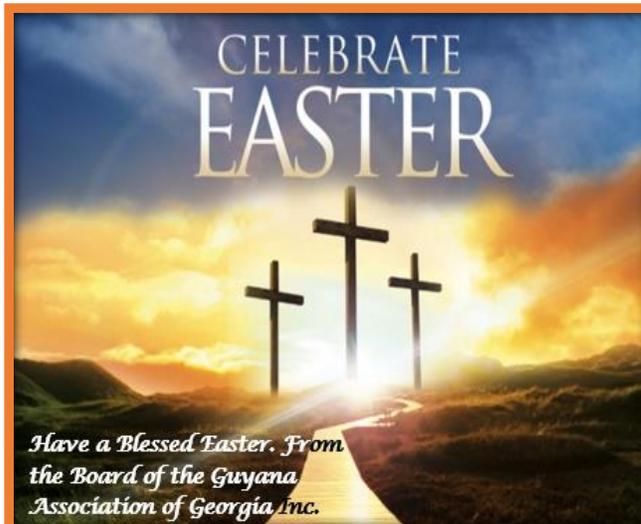
How can you contribute?

Tutors are needed for our youth programs.

Contact: Carl Lashley; cclashley@gmail.com



Carl Lashley - Chair



Happy Mashramani & 47th Republic Anniversary to all our members and Friends.

From the GAOG Board

Finance/Economics Committee

Goal 2016: *Develop an annual operation budget with staff, approve the budget within the finance committee. Monitor Adherence to the budget as well as setting long range financial goals.*



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

Projects 2016:

1. Create, approve, and update as necessary, policies that help ensure the assets of the Guyana Association of Georgia are protected
2. Ensure the policies and procedures for financial transactions are documented in a manual, and the manual is reviewed annually, and updated as necessary.
3. Ensure approved financial policies and procedures are being followed.

How can you contribute?

Volunteer today to be a part of this committee.

Contact: Dennis Fraser

Email: dennisfraser@msn.com



Dennis Fraser - Chair

Membership/Events Committee

Goal 2016: **Membership - To increase overall membership by 10% over the next three years and to reach out to current inactive members and encourage them to become active members once again.**



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

Team: **Lyndelle Isaacs-Heyliger (Chairperson)**, Shena Applewhaite, Verdine Benn, Claude London Clairmont Fraser and Cleveland Harlequin.

Projects 2016:

1. Create and manage a contact management database to easily communicate with members.
2. Contact inactive members and ask them to consider becoming active again. Conduct Membership Drives.
3. Re-create membership cards that allow members to receive discounts at participating merchants and vendors.

How can you contribute?

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

Contact: Lyndelle Isaacs Heyliger

E-mail: Lyndelleheylinger@yahoo.com



Lyndelle Isaacs- Heyliger (Chair)

Humanitarian/Hospitality Committee

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



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

Projects 2016:

1. Annual Feed the Homeless.
2. Prepare barrels of clothing for the Ruimveldt Children Home & Care Center (Guyana)
3. Prepare Christmas Baskets for the sick and shut in members of our community.

How can you contribute?

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

Contact: Marilyn Farley Thompson

E-mail: farleythompsonm@yahoo.com



Marilyn Farley Thompson (Chair)

Sponsorship Committee

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



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

Projects 2016:

1. Revising the prospectus to better quantify and evaluate the impact of past activities on the community.
2. Compile a register of Alumni in order to reach out and engage past beneficiaries of the GAOG Scholarship Program.
3. Compile a register of past presidents and executive board members.

How can you contribute?

Member scan contribute by providing current contact information for alumni.

Contact: Claire Wilson- Daly

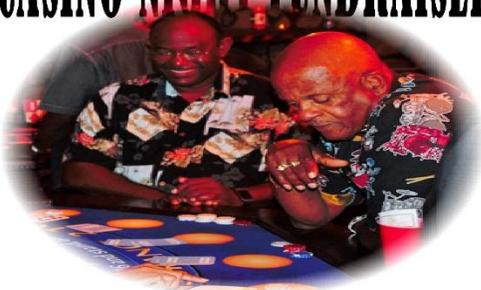
E-mail: Contact: grannyfit_2000@yahoo.com



Claire Wilson-Daly, Chair



THE GUYANA ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA INC.
CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER



From 8:00 pm until ... (Games 9:00 pm - 12:00 am)
Saturday June 25th 2016

G.A.O.G Secretariat: 1970 Panola Rd, Lithonia GA, 30058

Donations: \$25 for \$5000 worth of playing chips.
 Food and drinks on sale



DOOR AND GAME PRIZES AWARDED. CASINO KING AND QUEEN CROWNED. NO GAMBLING AND NO CASH PRIZES. DRESS CODE IS SEMIFORMAL

Contact: Lyndelle 770 295 9263
 Shena info@gaog.org

All proceeds go towards the scholarship & building funds and other community projects.

Purchase tickets @ www.gaog.org

Financial Series

Make your own gifts instead of buying stuff from the store.

If you want to save money while also giving generously, this is one way to accomplish both goals. You can make food mixes, candles, fresh-baked bread or cookies, soap, and all kinds of other things at home quite easily



These make spectacular gifts for others because they involve your personal touch — something you can't buy from a store — and quite often they're consumable, meaning they don't wind up filling someone's closet with junk. Even better — include a personal handwritten note with the gift.



Master the 30-day rule.

Avoiding instant gratification is one of the most important rules of personal finance, and waiting 30 days to decide on a purchase is an excellent way to implement that rule.

Quite often, after a month has passed, you'll find that the urge to buy has passed as well, and you'll have saved yourself some money simply by waiting. If you're on the fence about a purchase anyway, waiting a while can give you a better perspective on whether it's truly worth the money.

The Simple Dollar



Thank you

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



Judge Knight Runs for office.

Cont'd from page 1

In 2007, he became an Assistant District Attorney with the Griffin Judicial Circuit in Georgia. In 2009, I became a Senior Litigation Assistant District Attorney with the Clayton County District Attorney's Office and in January 2012, he joined Knights Law Group, a Law Firm owned and operated by his wife, Keysha Knights. Judge Knight is committed to serving the Clayton County community with responsibility, impartiality, and fairness. He has also indicated that his reputation for professionalism, promptness, and effective courtroom management are additional skills that make him *the* candidate for Superior Court Judge.



Rafer Johnson

Last September we also mentioned that another Guyanese Rafer Johnson announced his candidacy for Georgia State Representative earlier that year.

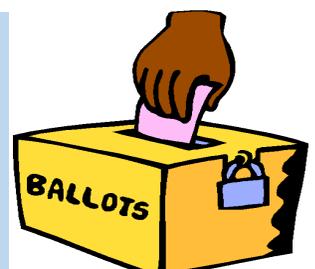


Have a say about what goes on in your community!

Register to vote! Elections will be held in May 2016.

Check your local Department of Registration and Elections or Georgia's Secretary of State for **registration deadlines.**

<http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/2016> election dates



Silver Jubilee Anniversary - Cont'd

from page 1

This is an important milestone which coincides with the 50th Independence anniversary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. The organization continues to give back to the community as it has done for the last 25 years. Its signature event, the memorial weekend family Fun Day continues to offer quality culture and fun for all.

Starting with a small group of Guyanese who met & fellowshiped regularly, it slowly blossomed into a family and culturally focused organization. A quarter Century Later, the GAOG has given out over \$200,000 in local and international scholarships, collaborated with the Feed the Hungry Program at the Trinity Methodist church, worked with the Sick and shut in, Held Youth Symposiums, Assisted with children's group homes in Guyana and partnered up with sister Caribbean Organizations. The board and general membership continue to uphold the Guyanese and West Indian culture co-hosting the Caribbean American Heritage opening Ceremony this year.

In the month of May this year, the GAOG has a week packed of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the GAOG as well as the golden Jubilee of Guyana. These include the church services, Queh Queh & welcome party night, the family Fun day and the Independence Ball.

In honor of the Silver Jubilee Celebration the GAOG has 25th Anniversary lapel pins on sale. Purchase one from any board member or reserve your pin on line.

The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.
Invites you to
Our Silver Jubilee Anniversary Independence Ball

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH, 2016

**OMEGA WORLD CENTER
3951 SNAPPINGER PKWY,
DECATUR, GA 30035**

Donation: \$30

50 GUYANA 1966 - 2016 GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDEPENDENCE

Music by Caribbean Grove Band

The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.
Invites you to
The 25th Anniversary & 2016 Scholarship Awards Banquet

SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

GEORGIA PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
CONFERENCE CENTER
495 N INDIAN CREEK DRIVE
CLARKSTON GA, 30021

COCKTAILS AT 6:00PM | DINNER AT 7:00PM | CONTACT 770.507.4831

Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.
Presents
The 10th Annual Tea Party

Saturday July 23rd 2016

Time: 03:00pm - 07:00 pm

Donation: Adults \$25, Children under 12yrs, \$12

Hat Parade, Door prizes & Best Decorated Table Prizes. Contact Joan Reuben 404 551 7589

The GAOG Secretariat
1970 Panola Rd Lithonia GA 30058

What's happening in the Community

Walmart Donates Bottled Water to the GAOG



Left: Manager of Walmart Saliou Gaye meets with GAOG President William Thomas and past President Philip Andrews at the Walmart Super Center off Old National Hwy, College Park, GA. Right: GAOG Board and Members pack up the bottled water.

As part of a community project, The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. benefited from donations of several hundred bottles of water from Walmart. The association plans to use the water to assist other organizations in the community with donations.

Caribbean American Heritage month Celebrations 2016



This year the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. will co-host the Georgia Caribbean American Heritage Coalition opening Ceremony along with Barbados. Each year in June the GCAHC hosts a month long celebration of West Indian culture, arts and way of life. The opening Ceremony is usually hosted by countries celebrating a milestone independence anniversary. This year both Guyana and Barbados are celebrating their golden jubilee Anniversaries.

The opening Ceremony on June 5th is expected to be froth with the usually pomp and ceremony with the flag bearing ceremony, booth displays of each island nation's culture, various cuisines, cultural presentation, and important guest speakers from the two hosting countries.

The Caribbean month celebrations seeks to unite the island nations by keeping the cultures alive. It is a unique opportunity for networking and learning more about each other's culture.

All Things Guyanese

Independence Celebrations in Guyana

Cont'd from pg 1



Left: Rendering of the new green space at Durban Park. Right: Work begins at Durban Park

The government has put massive effort into the preparations for the 50th. There is also expected to be a huge influx of overseas based Guyanese from the USA, Canada and Europe returning home for the celebrations. Many Guyanese from Atlanta will be going down there as well.

Earlier this year during the Republic day celebrations on February 23rd the largest Golden Arrowhead ever flown was hoisted at the newly constructed Durban Park on Homestretch Avenue. Amid much excitement the Golden Arrowhead was hoisted on the 200 ft. flag pole.

The observance of the 50th anniversary will have a flag raising ceremony which will be held at Durban Park again. This is a proud milestone in the history of Guyanese fabric as it has been 50 years since the British relinquished their reign over Guyana.

FIND AND LIKE US
ON FACEBOOK



FOLLOW US ON
TWITTER
@GUYANAOFGA



Announcements

Upcoming events 2016

April 9th – Cook out and Cleanup day

at the GAOG

May 22nd – Anniversary Church Service

May 23rd - Cocktail Reception & Exhibition of
Guyanese books & art.

May 24th – Guyanese small Business Expo

May 25th – Mini Health Fair

-Live Broadcast from President Granger

May 26th - Night of Culture and Cuisine

May 27th – Welcome Night & Queh Queh

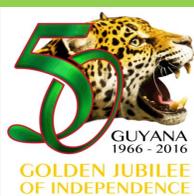
May 29th – Family Fun Day

May 29th – Independence Ball

June 5th – Caribbean Heritage Month Celebration.

June 25th – Casino Night

July 23rd – Garden Tea Party



The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.

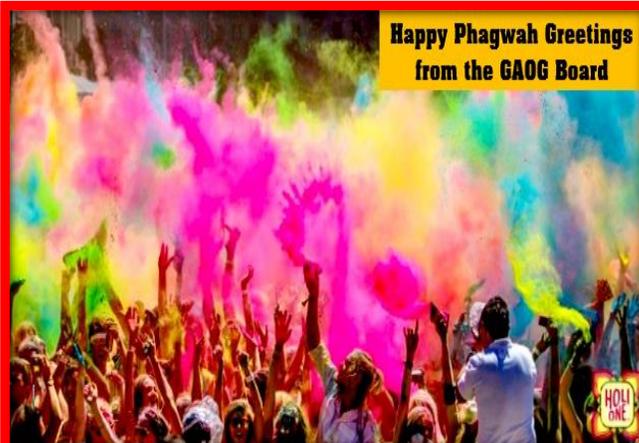
Have you signed up or renewed your membership
this year? Wait no more!

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



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

Pay online at www.gaog.org



Happy Phagwah Greetings
from the GAOG Board

Restoring the Garden City – Georgetown enhances its green spaces.



Left: Rendering of the New Durban Park, Georgetown. Right: Work begins at Durban Park

In February of this year, the committee responsible for the development of the future Durban Park in Georgetown, unveiled the plans and artistic renditions. Charrettes were held with residents from the Hadfield Street and Lodge communities in an attempt to obtain stake holder feedback.

The three-phase project included preparations to accommodate a massive 200 foot flag pole for the flag-raising ceremony which was held on February 23, 2016 as Guyana got ready to celebrate its 46th Republic Anniversary. The second phase would be the acceleration of works to accommodate another massive flag-raising ceremony on May 26, 2016 when Guyana will celebrate its Golden Jubilee Anniversary. The third phase would be the final leg of the project, which is to develop the entire location to accommodate a state-of-the-art, world-class arena to seat 30,000 persons, twice the capacity of the Guyana National Stadium at Providence.

Behind the arena, there would be a large area designated for sporting activities, including lawn tennis, go-cart racing, basketball, jogging and walking tracks, along with other facilities. Additionally, there would be several other features at the location that are being geared to promote family-oriented activities.

Further, Public Relations Consultant, Alex Graham, spoke of additional upgrading works which would be done to the 1763 Slave Rebellion Monument site. Immediately behind that monument, there will be a promenade, which would be opened 24/7, unlike the other parks in the city which are often closed at a certain time.

The current Government is placing a heavy focus on developing green spaces as a part of the Guyana beautification project. Another project which has also taken off is the Merriman's Mall adjacent to the Bourda market. This area has been enhanced to include a children's park and recreation area, skating rink and, last December it hosted its first ever Tree Lighting Ceremony.



Construction begins at Durban Park, Georgetown Guyana



Arial View of Meriman's Mall, Georgetown, Guyana



Meriman's Mall, Georgetown Guyana



*The Guyana
Association of Georgia
Inc.
Celebrating 25 Years of
community service*

Snap Shot



A new Bishop is ordained in Guyana.

A New Anglican Bishop Rev. Charles Alexander Davidson, was ordained at the St. George's Cathedral on Wednesday to head the diocese of Guyana. The ceremony took place in the presence of several visiting Bishops from around the region. President David Granger was also present at the ordination.

Sexual and Domestic Violence Unit opens.

The Canadian high commission has provided assistance to the Ministry of Social Protection to help tackle sexual and domestic violence in the Country. The Ministry intends to provide more assistance to victims in the form of counseling and support. They also intend to increase the investigations and prosecution of batterers.

New Maternity Ward at GPHC nears completion

The New maternity wing at the Georgetown Public hospital is expected to be completed by the end of this month. The Public health Minister has given assurance that overcrowding in the maternity wards at the hospital will be a thing of the past.

Honorary Counsels being reviewed.

The Government believes that honorary consuls assigned overseas had been selected haphazardly and the ministry of Foreign affairs is currently reviewing those positions with a view to making adjustments.

6000 Hinterland Households to get Solar Power

More than Six thousand households in 25 hinterland communities are set to receive free solar home systems. It's all part of the Sustainable Business Models for Rural Electrification and Energy Access in Guyana Project which was recently launched by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure. This has been dubbed as a massive development for the hinterland

IS SUH DEY SEH

Only Guyanese does:

know the meaning of "cochore", "skites", "rass" and "bannas"



Cook's Corner



Cassava Egg Balls (makes about 6 egg balls)

Ingredients:

1 lb cassava (yuca),
6 eggs and 1 for frying
1 cup flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp granulated garlic
4 to 5 heads of green onions,
finely chopped
pinch of fresh ground black
pepper
3 to 4 cups oil for frying.

**Cassava Egg Ball directions:
by Metemgee**

Peel cassava and cut into 2 inch pieces. Place in a small sauce pan, cover with water and add salt. Bring to a boil on high heat. Boil for about 15 minutes or until the cassava is soft and can be easily crushed with a fork. Place 6 eggs in a small saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Boil for 10 minutes. Then transfer to a bowl of iced cold water. When eggs are completely cool, remove shells. Once the cassava boils, remove from the water. Then remove the "vein" from the center of cassava. Crush the cassava with a potato masher or fork. Season cassava with granulated garlic, black pepper and green onions.

Making the cassava balls

Take about 1/4 cup of the mashed cassava and form into a ball. Flatten the ball, then add 1 boiled egg. Cover the egg with the cassava and roll into a ball. Whisk the remaining egg and pour into a small plate. Add 1 cup of flour to another plate. Coat cassava ball with eggs, then with flour. Fry in hot oil, until golden brown. Remove from oil and drain excess oil on a paper towel. Enjoy with some Guyanese pepper sauce or sour.

FOLKLORE GALORE

Kanaima

The spirit of vengeance or justice believed in by Amerindians. Death is caused by a knot in the intestines or in some mysterious fashion. Also a person who carries out acts of vengeance.

Story

A legend exists among the natives about an old man who lurked in the forest in the shape of a Kanaima tiger. His son, who was hunting, shot the tiger down. His arrow, which was one of the old-fashioned sort, tipped with bone, entered the animal's jaw. The tiger raised its paw, broke off the weapon and vanished into the forest. The young huntsman picked up the splintered arrow-head and returned home. Next day his guilty father came back groaning, and cried out that his mouth was "all on fire." The son drew from his cheek a bone which, oddly enough, fitted into his splintered arrow-head. Then the son was very sorrowful and said to his father that he must leave him and take his young wife away too, for neither of them would be safe from the dread Kanaima charm. This is a specimen of the repercussion" stories, in which the wound inflicted on the were animal appears in the human form.



Executive Board

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

Trustees

Carl Lashley
Lyndelle Isaacs– Heyliger
Dennis Fraser
Dr. Kelly Thomas
Shena Applewhaite
Fitzpatrick Stevens

Committee Chairpersons

Building – Dennis Belgrave
Communications – Shena Applewhaite
Education – Carl Lashley
Finance – Dennis Fraser
*Humanitarian/Hospitality– Marilyn Farley–
 Thompson*
Membership– Lyndelle Isaacs–Heyliger
Sponsorship– Claire Daily– Wilson
Health & Wellness – Faustina Osborne

Editor's Corner



The first quarter is behind us already! New Years, Phagwah, Good Friday and Easter – all gone! Time is flying. This year is a big deal for the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. All members and volunteers who have toiled endlessly over the last quarter century can give themselves a pat on the back.

Looking back, we have grown from the small family picnics we held back in the day to the general members meetings and the infamous Family Fun Day which attracts on average 5000 individuals annually. We have held countless brunches, tea parties, balls and cultural nights all in the name of acquiring adequate funds to return to the community. We thank all those who have supported us in every form and fashion over the years. Because of your blessings we have been able to help the less fortunate in our community, provide scholarships in excess of \$200,000 over the last 25 years, purchase a building which we can call our own to tutor students for free and share our resources with sister island nations.

As if this was not enough there is an even bigger milestone this year. The Cooperative Republic of Guyana is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. Yes! Fifty years of independence from Great Britain. This nostalgic affair also comes at a time when the regime in Guyana has recently changed. The people's pride and confidence has been restored as is evident in the massive campaigns to restore the capital to its Garden City State. A large influx of Guyanese from all over the world is expected to converge on Georgetown to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. The air is abuzz with much anticipation, hotels are booked to capacity. Everyone is looking forward to May 26th.

Alas, this is difficult to compete with, but for those of us who can't make it to the Garden City, we will be holding a weeklong celebration right here in Atlanta. Hope to see you soon!

Condolences

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



Are you up for the challenge?

**GAOG needs your talents to help
the community.**

Become a member today!

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

Contact the Chair of the committee you are interested in.