

From the desk of the President



President of the GAOG,
Carl Lashley

Greetings!

I give thanks to the Eternal as I begin this season as the newly elected President of the Guyana Association of Georgia (GAOG).

We anticipate many opportunities and challenges, so we are equipping ourselves with the skills and support to main-

tain the GAOG as an Organization of Excellence. Our trusted Trustees are working on their special projects and serving with our competent Committee Chairs and their energized committees. We have begun to elevate the profile of the GAOG through effective promotional and awareness initiatives. I am delighted to state that we have in place quality teams that are motivated and are ensuring focus on achieving the goals of GAOG in all program areas.

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GAOG Board holds Annual Retreat

Newly elected President Carl Lashley held the Guyana association of Georgia Board annual retreat this past January. The board met to discuss plans for the new year. New Committee chairs were introduced. This year the committee chairs were non board members freeing up trustees to execute other functions. Plans for the year were discussed including revitalizing the young professionals, the Memorial weekend activities and other fund raisers.



GAOG President Mr. Carl Lashley holds 2017 Board Retreat.

INSIDE THE GAOG

New GAOG Board sworn in by Commissioner Lisa Cupid of Cobb County.



On Sunday January 22nd, 2017 Members, all community leaders and our Global Family, were in attendance as The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc., installed their New Board Members and Committee Chair Persons. Cobb County Commissioner of District 4 Lisa Cupid lead the swearing in of all newly appointed board members. This included President Carl Lashley, Vice president Claude London, Secretary Merlyn Osbourne, Treasurer Marcus Gordon and Assistant Secretary Treasurer Audrey Teekah (Who has since resigned due to a family emergency). The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. shared the Vision for the 2017 Calendar year with upcoming events, community initiatives, and the Family Fun Day 2017(A Global Phenomenon responsible for one of most Income Driven Platforms in Georgia with it's Diversity & Multiculturalism Presence). The GAOG has cemented a history of inclusion for all since 1991 and is expecting an EPIC year with it's Global Supporters. Also in Attendance: Mayoral Candidate for the NEW City of South Fulton Mr. Rafer Johnson, Ceo's of Caribbean American Passport News Magazine, Mr. Samuel Roberts & Guenet Gittens-Roberts, Founder of Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, Ms. Jackie Pommell-Watson, and Founder of the Caribbean-American Advancement Foundation, Mr. Courtney McFarlane. We ask for your Support in any of the following to continue the vision of the GAOG. Please stay tuned as we inform you of all the upcoming events of which you can contribute to make 2017 a more impactful and successful Year.

**Celebrate the
Resurrection of the
Lord!**

*The President and Board
of the Guyana
Association would like to
wish a Happy Easter to
all our members, sponsors
and friends.*



Message from the President

Cont'd from pg 1

All committees are producing measurable outcomes that you will have the opportunity to learn more about in the near future. I would like to utilize this opportunity to highlight the activities of two committees.

We have hit the ground running with the Youth and Culture Committee with their Millennial Mixer. The Millennial Mixer's purpose was to attract younger members to the organization. Thirty millennials accepted the invitation to the Mixer much to the excitement of the Youth and Culture Committee. The millennials were welcomed by the Youth and Culture Committee members and the GAOG Board Members as our special guest. They were treated to a fun Guyanese culture ice breaker, a brief history of the association, and the expectations of the association in the future. The Board and Committee Chairs were ecstatic to meet such a talented and dynamic group of young Guyanese. The group included educators, engineers, attorneys, accountants, a nonprofit owner, a soccer coach, and a cosmologist to name a few occupations. They were all wonderful young people who would be a tremendous asset to the GAOG. At the conclusion of the mixer twelve (12) of the guests became paid members; and many of the others, expressed an interest in becoming members.

“Onward upward may we ever grow...”

The Education Committee is charged with the execution of GAOG's flagship activity: the promotion and facilitation of education by uplifting the youth in the communities we serve to their highest standards of academic excellence, and increased enrollment in tertiary institutions of their choice. In this first quarter of 2017, this committee has been injected with new leadership, who started energetically to build on the shoulders of past leaders. A vibrant Tutoring and Mentoring program was launched on March 11th, catering to seventeen (17) bright-eyed students, ranging from pre-K to high school. This program offers great support in STEM subjects, as well as, Language Arts options. Many of the students arrived with their own tablets or computers for ready access to the websites used in their classrooms. This was a heartening development, since GAOG is seriously in need of modern computers to help with those students that do not yet have their own. Tutors are engaged in those areas where students report to have weaknesses. Selected free web resources will then be used to provide practice and reinforce learning.

In keeping with the core principles of GAOG, the Education Committee remains sensitive to how well the mission goals are being met; as well as, how effectively resources are being utilized. An assessment of students' capabilities at the start of the program will be compared with a similar assessment at relevant milestones and at end of course markers. Good study habits, learning skills and parent participation are all highly encouraged as critical to the success of each student. With this level of participation from students, tutors and parents, the committee projects a continuous progressive transformation in student performance as the program progresses.

In the coming weeks a Youth Symposium will be hosted with potential workshops: Academic competition, Networking, High performance in school, Entrepreneurship, Dress for success, History of the Caribbean and others.

We have secured the James R. Hallford Stadium for our signature event, The Family Fun Day. We have secured the Grand Royale Event Center for our Annual Independence Dance. Plans for our Friday night Welcome Party and all the Memorial Weekend activities are appropriately in order. As we all know The **Guyana Family Fun Day** attracts approximately 6,000 of the more than 200,000 people from all over the world who visit Atlanta for the annual Atlanta Caribbean Carnival during the four-day Memorial weekend. We encourage you and your family to not only come out and support the events but become a sponsor at the Guyana Family Fun Day.

I have set before you a summation of our collective development in this first quarter of the year, and GAOG looks to translate this development into feats of excellence. This work cannot be accomplished on the shoulders of few. GAOG needs your help—your time, your talents, and your treasures!

“Though Diverse Together We Can Build”

Carl Lashley
President, Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.



Guyana Association of Georgia, Inc.

PRESENTS



6TH ANNUAL BRUNCH



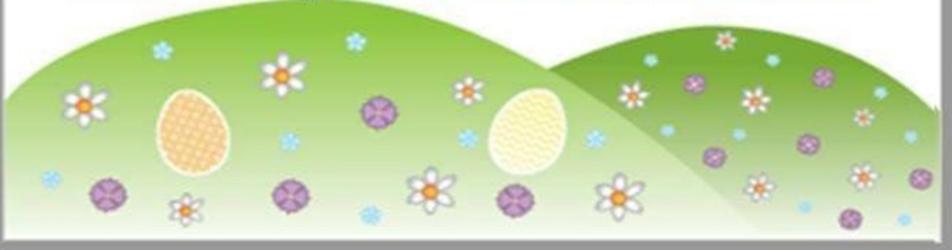
Saturday, April 8th 2017
12:00pm - 4:00pm

CHRIST OUR HOPE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1786 WELLBORN ROAD
LITHONIA GA 30058



DONATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON
\$12.00 PER CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS

For Tickets: Merlyn: 678-913-4948 * Gwen: 404-213-5807



Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.

Memorial Weekend Family Fun Day
Hallford Stadium,
3789 Memorial College Ave. Clarkston GA 30021
Sunday, May 28, 2017

Become A Vendor:
Food * Arts & Craft * Ice Cream * Music



Large Food Vendor

Small Food Vendor

Advertising

Ice Vendor

Arts & Craft Vendor

To request more info or receive a package
Call: 678-913-4948 or 770-335-9695
Email: gaogsecretary@gmail.com

FIND AND LIKE US
ON FACEBOOK



FOLLOW US ON
TWITTER

@GUYANAOFGA



GAOG holds Millennial Mixer

This past February The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc held a Millennial Mixer aimed at the next generation of members. Many interested persons from that age group showed up to this social event to brainstorm and share their views and ideas for the future of the organization.

Many of these young professionals brought their skills to offer to the organization including information technology, website and social media experience and social services skills.

There was definite interest and enthusiasm from these young members some of who were second generation Guyanese. The topics of more community involvement by the association was raised. Many also expressed interest in the various committees within the organization.



Youth and Culture Chair Patricia Jeffrey addresses the millennial crowd.



The youth and Young Professionals at the Guyana Association of Georgia's Inc first ever Millennial Mixer



Sharing ideas for the future.

THE GUYANA ASSOCIATION
OF GEORGIA INC.
presents



Family FUN DAY

May 28th 2017
SUNDAY • 12 NOON - 9:00 PM

JAMES R. HALLFORD STADIUM
3789 MEMORIAL COLLEGE AVE
CLARKSTON, GA 30021

FREE PARKING



Sebrina Sumrah Kelly & Mr. B
MCs



IMANI RAY
KENNE BLESSIN
TERRY GAJRAL CHUTNEY KING



GUYANA SOCA QUEEN
"BIC RED"
GUYANA SOCA MONARCH
"RUBBERBAND" JUMBO

GUEST APPEARANCES

FEATURING DJ CHIGGA



Georgetown United Playoff
Game from 3:30pm

**Popular Caribbean Artists,
Khathak Dancers, Tassa Drummers, Kids Zone
& much more**

Donation: \$10 per person / \$15 after 4:00 PM • Children under 12 are free

SPONSORED BY



FOR INFO: Claud London 770-335-9695, Merlyn Osborne 678-913-4948, Carl Lashley 240-350-5879
and Marcus Gordon 470-258-6184

Guyana Association of Georgia, Inc.
PRESENTS

Welcome Party MIX N MINGLE

Friday, May 26th 2017
From 8:00 pm Until 2:00 am

at the
GAOG Secretariat
1970 Panola Road, Lithonia, GA 30058

1.20 East to Panola Rd., make right turn on Panola Road, go
approximately 3 miles, cross Covington Hwy., building is 1/2
mile on right.

1.20 West to Panola Rd., make left turn (follow directions above)

Free Admission • Free Parking
MUSIC BY JEGGAE

FOR INFO: Claud London 770-335-9695, Merlyn Osborne 678-913-4948,
Carl Lashley 240-350-5879 and Marcus Gordon 470-258-6184

THE GUYANA ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA, INC.
PRESENTS

The Annual Independence Ball

SUNDAY, MAY 28TH 2017
10:00PM - 4:00AM

GRAND ROYALE
EVENTS CENTER
4473 COVINGTON HWY.
DECATUR GA 30035

DONATION:
\$30.00 ADVANCE*
\$35.00 AT DOOR



MUSIC BY
DJ Quin
and Super Terry
de One Man Band

New GAOG Committee Chairs



President Carl Lashley introduces new committee chairs. From left to right, Membership Chair— Thelma Williams, sponsorship Chair— Clair Wilson- Daily, Financial Chair—Neville George, Youth and Culture Chair—Patricia Jeffrey and Communications and Publicity Chair— Sebrena Sumrah Kelly. Missing from the photo are Building chair—Dennis Belgrave, Humanitarian & Hospitality Chair—Marilyn Farley Thompson, Education Committee Chair— Austin Thompson, Events Chair Barbara Lashley and Homeland Community Chair—Dr. Kelly Thomas.

Mayoral hopeful for new South Fulton County, Rafer Johnson



In the January 2017 GMM, GAOG member and mayoral hopeful Rafer Johnson was a guest speaker at the General Members Meeting. Mr. Johnson announced to members that he was a candidate in the race for mayor of the newly formed City of South Fulton in the Metro Atlanta Area.

He reminded those present of the importance of voting and how it affects our lives. Johnson has experience in corporate and non-profit companies including Delta Air Lines, Hotel Connections, Oxford Health Plans & the American Foundation for the Blind. He is a 2009 Leadership Atlanta alumnus, former Chair of the Board for the Housing Authority of Fulton County, President of the Black Employee Network at Delta Airlines, Atlanta Beltline TADAC Member, Chair of the South Fulton NOW and Founder of Delta's now global mentoring program, R.I.S.E. He was also featured as one of the 2015 Men of Distinction in the Atlanta Tribune Magazine. He has also served on Atlanta Pride, Black Gay Men's Network.

His leadership and expertise lies in healthcare, transportation and hospitality industries where he has managed revenues in excess of \$1.5 billion.

Budding Author meets GAOG members.

Sherrich Monsher, a budding author of Guyanese Lineage met with Members from the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc in February to do PR on her new book *Wolves in Suits*. The book targets the young dating population and the ups and down of relationships. Monsher is a Doctoral Student and founder of the ShareThe Rich LLC, a Professional Development and Empowerment coaching business. Her platform assist women with finding their professional joy whether through career advancement or entrepreneurship. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and Masters in Public Administration from Savannah State University.

www.sherrichmonsher.com



Author Sherrich Monsher

The Committees Report

Building Committee

Goals 2017: To ensure the general maintenance and upkeep of the building through refurbishing and holding cleanup activities.



Team: Neville George, Marrie George, Claude London, Aubrey Augustine, Lyndelle Isaacs-Heyliger, Noel Isaacs- Heyliger

Projects planned for 2017:

1. Repaint building exterior
2. Replace carpet with wood floors.
3. Basement clean up.
4. Construction of Mail box.
5. Planting of flowers in front of building
6. Handicap Ramp addition

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

Dennis Belgrave - Dennis9321@att.net

Humanitarian/Hospitality Committee



Goal 2017: 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 planned for 2017:

1. Annual Feed the Homeless.
2. Christmas Baskets for the sick and shut in members of our community.
3. Social and Hosting projects

How can you contribute?

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

Also, we have been tasked to send favors- such as get well cards, sympathy cards and flowers to membership and supporters in their time of need. Volunteering for humanitarian programs and initiatives has been and remains my passion. Overtime, I have learned that it is indeed a fantastic way to express one's caring for others who may be less fortunate or experiencing a down period in their lives. I would submit that there is no better way, than by participation in humanitarian projects domestically and abroad to show that "We truly care"

Contact: Marilyn Farley-Thompson

E-mail: farleythompsonm@yahoo.com

Homeland and International Committee



Goal 2017: The goals of this committee is to keep the members of the GAOG informed about issues in Guyana and any programs, events and government policies that affect or impact Guyanese in the diaspora.



Team : Dr. Kelwyn Thomas, Neil Ray

Projects 2017: We will try to identify specific projects that will be of benefit to Guyana including University of Guyana, supplies for the Hospitals and medical missions, education (eg CXC exam prep, STEM and Math), supplies to support youth sports activities, hands-on courses and workshops that promote entrepreneurship and leadership development.

How you can contribute: We would like to encourage any other members of the GAOG to join this committee and contribute additional ideas as well as provide any contacts both in the US and Guyana of those individuals who will be able to facilitate and contribute to any of the projects and programs that we wish to see established in Guyana.

Contact: Dr. Kelwyn Thomas kethomas@msm.edu

Health and Wellness



Goal: To establish and maintain an environment of social support and healthy lifestyle.



Team: Maureen Chukwujindu (chair), Desiree Jordan –Philadelphia, Byrle Bollers, Dr. Jennifer Rooke, R. Cleveland Harlequin, Merline Williams, Christie Ross.

Projects to be completed in 2017:

1. Update the medical kit with supplies.
2. Complete a survey of members to assess health needs.
3. Focus on preventative medicines and diets.
4. Complete several fundraisers.
5. Complete a Guyanese Cook book
- 6.

How to contribute: volunteer, provide feed back to the committee. Share any healthy recipes you may have.

Chair: Maureen Chukwujindu



The UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

invites you to the

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2017

JULY 23rd to 28th 2017

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

*Dreaming
Diaspora
Engagement
Doing
Diaspora
Engagement*



KEY DATES

April 14th 2017

Deadline for
Abstract Submissions

.....
May 12th 2017

All acceptance letters
For proposals e-mailed.

.....
June 16th 2017

Deadline for the executive
summary of your paper(s)
Submitted.

PROGRAMME & DATES

JULY 23rd 2017 – ARRIVAL & WELCOME RECEPTION

JULY 24th 2017 – OPENING PLENARY, PANELS & PAPERS

JULY 25th 2017 – PRESENTATIONS DAY

JULY 26th 2017 – 2nd ERA CONFERENCE

JULY 27th 2017 – KNOW YOUR COUNTRY DAY

JULY 28th 2017 – CLOSING PLENARY, CULTURAL NIGHT

CONFERENCE VENUE

GEORGETOWN RAMADA PRINCESS

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AT:

[HTTP://DIASPORACONFERENCE.UOG.EDU.GY](http://diasporaconference.uog.edu.gy)

What's Happening in the Community

The Guyana Girls Academy

The Guyana Girls Academy (GGA) was founded by Colin Wilson, one of the young professionals in the Association. He exhibits a passion for soccer and has been playing for many years. He noticed in Guyana there was a lack of girls' soccer at the youth level and that girls that were interested played with the boys until they were old enough to join the women's national team which is dominated by foreign based players. He set out to provide opportunities for girls from age 5–18 in Guyana to be trained and learn to play soccer and eventually to qualify to play in the Women's World Cup.

Core values of the organization are to Learn, Grow and Compete, as well as Pride, Integrity, Teamwork and Faith. This year they will be holding their inaugural camp in Georgetown, Guyana. The GGA Camp is a four-day camp geared towards giving young girls a peek into the GGA full academy program to create more interest in girls' football. The camp will run from Tuesday, July 25th to Friday, July 28th and is open to girls age 7 – 11.

Colin Wilson is looking for help facilitating the program in order to develop, train, and educate these young girls.



**Founder of GGA:
Colin Wilson**

If you would like to know more about the organization and would like to donate please visit the website at Guyanagirlsacademy.org, like them on [Facebook](#) or follow them on Twitter at [@GUYGirlsAcademy](https://twitter.com/GUYGirlsAcademy).

GUYANA GIRLS ACADEMY CAMP



- July 25th to July 28th
- Georgetown, Guyana
- All regions welcome
- Girls ages 7-11
- Free participation
- Apply now at Guyanagirlsacademy.org

"PRIDE In Everything We Do"

In collaboration with GFF, NSC, ABSAA, Inc. and our sponsors

Mayor Reed meets with Caribbean Associations & Businesses

On February 20th 2017 Caribbean Leaders and business owners met with the Honorable Mayor Kasim Reed at City Hall. Jackie Pommells Watson (President of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce of GA was also present. The GAOG was represented by Communications and Publicity Chair, Subrena Sumrah Kelly. Each Island Nation had 15 minutes to present their agenda and the Mayor was simply gracious with a demanding schedule to not only listen but made sure they were given all the necessary contacts to keep dialogue and inclusion of the Caribbean in Atlanta's Government, Business Contracts, and more importantly Atlanta's Economic Impact. The Mayor has opened the Invitation to the " Welcome to Atlanta Initiative Platform" , Request to open a Registry for Contracting Opportunities & Minority Contracting. A proposal was given to the Mayor for the first Caribbean Cultural Center and the Mayor noted billions are in place for that to be a reality. Hartsfield-Jackson Airport was a proposed opportunity for Caribbean Business and the Mayor agreed and will do all he can to make that a reality before he leaves office, as one of largest Caribbean Franchises (Golden Krust) in the Restaurant Industry, Owner Jacqueline Hawthorne-Robinson, advised the mayor it has been in operation for over 27 years and family owned.

The Mayor was made aware of the Guyana Association of Guyana Inc. and it's inception since 1991 and it's Economic Impact not only in Dekalb County but Atlanta. An invitation was extended to The Mayor & his Staff to the GAOG's 2017 global Family Fun Day and he indicated that he would like to be in attendance He was not aware of the over 6000 plus Attendees that come to Atlanta for Family Fun Day and the Economic precedence it has set. He further charged us to tell everyone to come to Atlanta as it is one of the fastest growing cities in America coupled with it's *Appreciation for Diversity*. Also in attendance was business owner Mr. Pallard Dain with Atlantis Real Properties.

We are very grateful and thankful for this meeting. Please look out for more of the Caribbean in Atlanta, GA. If you have not yet visited Atlanta~ This Memorial Weekend should be on your Calendar ~ as the GAOG celebrates its 26th Annual Family Fun Fay at the Halford Stadium in Dekalb County.



Communications and Publicity Chair of the GAOG Subrena Sumrah– Kelly meets with Mayor of Atlanta Kasim Reed (left) and Owner of Goldern Krust in Conyers and Stone Crest, Jacqueline Hawthorne Robinson. (right)

ALL THINGS GUYANESE



Cheesy Beefy Pinwheels (makes 9 giant pinwheels)

Dough

Ingredients:

- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup shortening
- 1 egg
- 1 pkt fast active / rapid rising yeast (about 1 tbsp)
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp salt

By: Metemgee.com

Filling:

- 1 lb lean ground (mince) beef
- 1/2 large onion (finely chopped)
- 4 cloves garlic (finely chopped)
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp cassareep or soy sauce
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp spicy brown mustard
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tsp oil
- About 4 tbsp ketchup for cooking beef and 9 tbsp for garnish.
- 1/2 lb shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:

Dough:

Warm milk. Add sugar, shortening and egg to warm milk and whisk together. Add wet ingredients to a large mixing bowl, or stand mixer with a dough hook. In a separate mixing bowl sieve flour. Add yeast and salt to flour and mix together. Add dry ingredients 1 cup at a time to wet ingredients and mix together to form a soft dough. Place dough on a floured surface and knead together to form a smooth ball. Grease a large mixing bowl with about 2 tbsp oil. Place dough in greased bowl. Coat dough with oil from bowl. Cover dough and let sit until it doubles in size. For about an hour.

Filling:

Combine beef, onion, garlic, brown sugar, cassareep or soy sauce, thyme, mustard, and salt and pepper in a large mixing bowl. Mix together and let marinate for about 30 minutes. Add oil to a large skillet on medium heat. When oil is hot add marinaded ground/mince beef. Cook until beef fully cooks, stirring constantly to ensure even cooking (about 10 mins). Add 4 tbsp ketchup. Mixing together, remove from heat and let cool.

Making the pinwheels:
Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit
Once dough has doubled in size, remove from bowl. Punch down dough on a floured surface, then using a rolling pin roll dough out to about 1/2 inch thickness. Spread cooked, cooled beef evenly onto dough. Add 3/4 of shredded cheese. Roll dough into a log. Seal ends by pinching them together. Brush log with egg white. Then cut into 1/2 inch pieces. Top with swirls of ketchup, then remaining shredded cheese. Let sit for about 30 minutes, then bake for 20 to 35 minutes at 375 degrees Fahrenheit.

IS SUH DEY SEH



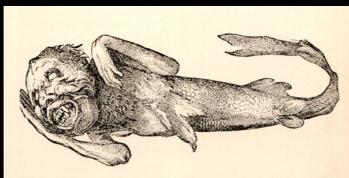
Yuh know yuh
Guyanese when :

you invite your girl friend for a date at the cinema, and she bring the whole family.

Folklore Galore

Fairmaid

Female water spirit - fed by food without salt - left on foreshore, edge of trenches.



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



GUYANA: State-of-the Cooperative Republic 2017

Dr. Kelwyn Thomas

EDUCATION

The CXC grades for students in Mathematics have been slipping downwards over the last five years. Mr. Sureddra Dhanpaul is the CEO of a newly established digital company **AcuExam** that has designed an APP that will allow students to access multiple choice math questions (3000 in the database) to help them prepare for the CXC examinations.

The website is: www.cxc-exam.com

The APP is also available from Google Plat Store at www.cxc-exam.com/cxc.apk
The company plans to add problem-based mathematics questions at a later date.

Since access to this mathematics question bank is **FREE** the company is soliciting donations through PayPal to help fund this enterprise (Amazon <https://tmyurl.co/cxcamazon>).

TEACHERS RESOURCE CENTER at LINDEN

Teachers and students in Guyana need to leverage mobile technology (computers, tablets and smartphones) as teaching/learning tools. Several lesson plans for all grades are readily available online.

The Linden Fund US sponsors a teachers Workshop annually in Linden and as instructors we have recognized that text books are not available to the teachers and they do not have ready access to the internet. We have proposed that a Teachers Resource Center be established to assist teachers to download educational teaching aids. **Donations (laptops, computers, Zerox machine) would go a long way in making this a reality.**

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SKILLS TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

In response to growing pressure locally and from the diaspora, President Granger has recently announced that he will be reestablishing the "Guyana Youth Corps" in January 2018 to empower the nations youths and provide them with the skills needed to prepare them for the work force and equipt them to aid in the development of Guyana. The President noted that young people between the ages of 15-25 currently make up one third of the population in Guyana.

The Government currently has a Youth Leadership Training Program at the Madewini Training Center which has recently graduated 57 young people. This Program is being administered by Mr. Aubrey Norton who is the Advisor on Youth Empowerment in The President's Office.

HOUSING

The Government has recently budgeted 25 billion dollars (GY) for 758 units in regions 2,3,4,5,6,7 & 10. The average cost of these units will be 5.5 million (GY).

The targeted groups will be public sector employees, youths and low income earners. The Government has already received 25,000 applications for a projected 1500 units.

This program is currently under the Central Housing & Planning (CH&PA) Authority.

THE ECONOMY

Recently, there has been a foreign exchange shortage in Guyana that is apparently due to a number of factors including lower earning on Rice and Sugar exports. Contributing factors are lower business and housing inventories that are most likely due to capital flight.

The recent onshore and offshore finds of considerable oil resource by ExxonMobil has added some hope for the future economic development of Guyana. However, a number of challenges exist that include skilled oil/gas work force, contractual agreements and whether Guyana will be able to capitalize and develop the oil/gas refinery capacity necessary to maximize this new economic resource.

Executive Board

Carl Lashley- President

Claude London- Vice-President

Merlyn Osborne - Secretary

Marcus Gordon- Treasurer

Fitzstephen Griffith-Asst. Secty/Treasurer

Neville George- Parliamentarian

Trustees

Dennis Fraser

Stephen Garreth

Lyndelle Isaacs- Heyliger

Shena Applewhaite

L.. Judy Wilson

Verdine Benn

Committee Chairpersons

Building - Dennis Belgrave

Care- Joan Reuben

Communications - Subrena Sumrah-Kelly

Education - Austin Thompson

Finance /Economics- Neville George

Health & Wellness-Maureen Chukwujindu

Homeland & International-Dr. Kelly Thomas

Humanitarian/Hospitality- Marilyn Farley-Thompson

Membership- Thelma Williams

Social-Barbara Lashley

Sponsorship- Claire Daily- Wilson

Sports-Gordon Barnwell

Youth and Culture-Patricia Jeffrey

Editor's Corner



Another new quarter has whizzed by! New Years, Mashramani, Phagwah—all gone. We are fast coming up on Good Friday and Easter.

The Association has a new President and Board and things are moving ahead. The year started off with a Millennial Mixer as we reached out to the youth and young professionals. The response was overwhelming and they are ready to get to work offering their skills to the association.

We have also have 13 new community chairs who are eager to jump in . They have presented a packed agenda for the year .

In April the Annual Brunch will be held. In May the Association's flag ship event The Family Fun Day is bursting with the usual excitement and anticipation.

This will be an exciting year and we look forward to your continued support. Thank you for all you do to keep the GAOG going.



Condolences

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



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.

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.

NEWS and VIEWS is a quarterly 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.org , visit us at www.gaog.org, follow us on [Twitter @guyanaofga](#), or like us on face book at www.facebook.com/GuyanaAssociationOfGeorgia