

BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP *EXPRESS*



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2011

24 July—1 August

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Top Stories:

- Buxton stands proud as four villagers are nominated to receive national awards
- Overseas groups respond to charges made by NDC Chairman Blair
- Rennie Parris suggests African-Guyanese revisit their African-ness to understand challenges faced

FOUR BUXTONIANS SET TO RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS

Four Buxtonians are among 133 persons nominated to be conferred with Guyana's national awards this year. The announcement was made during the observance of Guyana's 45th Independence Anniversary on 26th May.

Heading the list are Mr. Malcolm Parris, a former Guyana Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Minister of Education, and PNC Executive Secretary, International Relations & Economic Affairs; and Mr. Clyde Roopchand, Chief Planning Officer in the Ministry of Finance. They will be conferred with the nation's third highest award, the Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH).

Mr. Aubrey Stephenson, President & Chief Executive Officer of Federal Management Systems, Inc., will receive the nation's fourth highest award, the Golden Arrow of Achievement (AA).



Malcolm L. Parris, CCH



Clyde R. Roopchand, CCH

Former national and Olympic sprinter, June Griffith-Collison will also be honoured with a Medal of Service (MS), the nation's fifth highest award.

After a lapse of nine years, the President of Guyana, His Excellency, Mr. Bharat Jagdeo, in his role as Chancellor of the Orders of Guyana, will confer the awards at the National Awards and Investiture Ceremony to be held at a date to be announced. Congratulations to the nominees!



Aubrey A. Stephenson, AA



June Griffith-Collison, MS

MALCOLM LEROY PARRIS



Malcolm Parris at the Village Symposium held last year during the commemoration of Buxton's 170th Anniversary.

Malcolm Leroy Parris is the second of twin boys born to his parents on August 2nd, 1938. He attended Friendship Methodist School and the St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary School in Friendship, qualifying for a County Scholarship at the latter school in 1950. He attended Central and Tutorial High Schools, respectively, and passed the Senior Cambridge School Certificate Examinations at the latter in 1954.

Upon leaving school, Malcolm taught at St. John's Roman Catholic School in Plaisance Village, then joined the Guyana Public Service that same year as a Class II Clerk. He was promoted to the ranks of Class I and Senior Clerk in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Malcolm was appointed the first Deputy Head of the National Registration and later appointed to the Ministry of National Development. Malcolm continued to give yeoman service in his homeland, leaving briefly to pursue studies at a Master's Degree level, but returning home to provide service.

He was appointed Minister of Education in 1985, and Ambassador to the then Soviet Union in 1987. He returned to Guyana in 1989 to serve as Chief Executive Officer of the People's National Congress

Malcolm was undoubtedly focused academically and obtained a Bachelor of Social Science Degree from the University of Guyana in 1968 and a Master's Degree from University of Windsor, Canada in 1972. He also attended Kivukoni Ideological College in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania 1976-1978.

He was married to Evelyn Seaforth, who served as Deputy Consul General in the Guyana Consulate in Toronto, and with whom he fathered five daughters and one son, Kojo, who is currently serving as Honorary Consul of Guyana in South Africa. He has provided his children with a legacy of service and self-sacrifice and they are proud of his achievements. Malcolm is known to many for his passion and love for his country. He is one of the few "honest" politicians. He is a loyal friend, a patriot and a very dependable person. Malcolm is humble and was and still is , extremely passionate about education. He constantly kept an eye out in his community for any child who was home for more than 2 -3 consecutive days. He would then have a word with the parent(s) and ensured that, if not ill, that child would be in school the next day.

Malcolm is also passionate about his "home", his native village of Buxton and

still attends Church there at the Arundel Congregational Church.

Malcolm continues to provide service of a high quality in many areas: as the Secretary of the Tutorial Alumni Association in Guyana, a Deacon at his Church, and a member of the Tipperary Hall Restoration Committee in Buxton. Malcolm continues to give of himself, his expertise and his knowledge generously and continues to engage himself actively in nation building. There are many of all ages who have been touched by Malcolm's kindness.

In recognition of his long and dedicated service to Guyana, Malcolm Leroy Parris will be conferred with the Order of Cacique Crown of Honour by the President of Guyana, Bharat Jagdeo, at this year's National Awards and Investiture Ceremony. Congratulations, Malcolm! Buxton is proud of you.

CLYDE RAYMOND ROOPCHAND

Clyde Raymond Roopchand was born on 2nd February, 1947 at Friendship Village, E.C.D. to Fred (goldsmith) and Doris Roopchand.

- * He attended St. Anthony's R.C. School, Friendship; Central High School, Georgetown; and the University of Guyana, Turkeyen, from where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, majoring in Economics, in 1975. His post graduate studies include:
- * Agro-Industrial Project Planning—Caribbean Development Bank, Barbados (1978)
- * Agri-Business Management—AD Little Institute, Boston, MA, USA (1985)
- * Financial Programming and Policy—IMF Institute, Washington, DC, USA. (1988)

From 1967 to 1974, Mr. Roopchand taught at the St. Anthony's R.C. School. After graduating from UG, in 1975, he secured employment with the Ministry of Economic Development as an economist. He is currently the Chief Planning Officer in the State Planning Secretariat, a position he has held since 1987. His many job responsibilities include:

- Designing, developing and managing the Public Sector Investment Programme
- Appraisal and monitoring of Public Sector projects
- Participation in the preparation of the National Budget.

He sits on several boards and is currently the chairman of Guyana Revenue Authority.

Mr. Roopchand is married and has three children—

two girls and one boy. He is very much a family man. He likes playing dominoes, traveling around Guyana, and meeting people. Until 1977, when he relocated to Kitty, he was an active member of St. Anthony's R.C. Church. However, he has always stayed in touch with the people in Buxton-Friendship because he is always interested in knowing what is going on in the village.

Last year, as part of the commemoration of the 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of Buxton, a new street was named after this loyal son of the village, in honour and appreciation of his devotion and contribution to the improvement of Buxton-Friendship. Some of the projects in the village for which he is largely credited are:

- Extensive road improvement throughout Buxton-Friendship
- Establishment of the Practical Instruction Centre and construction of a brand new two-storey building to house the new technical-vocational school
- Construction of the modern tree-storey building which houses Friendship Primary School (formerly St. Anthony's RC School)
- Assistance in securing funding for the completion of Buxton Health Centre



Clyde Roopchand expressing his appreciation shortly after he was presented with a Plaque, last year, by the Buxtonian4Life group.



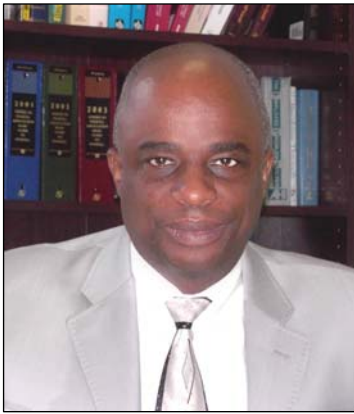
Members of the local Buxton 170th Anniversary Organizing Committee—(L>R) Barbara Thomas-Holder, Yvette Herod and Nandi Kellman—pose next to one of the street signs bearing the name of Clyde Roopchand, shortly after the unfolding ceremony. Clyde Roopchand Street is the "middle street" between Company Road and Friendship Middle Walk.

He was also honoured for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of the village by the Buxtonian4Life group last year.

In recognition of his long and dedicated service to his country, Clyde Raymond Roopchand was appointed to the Order of Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH) in the National Awards 2011.

Congratulations, Clyde! Buxton is proud of you.

AUBREY A. STEPHENSON



AUBREY A. STEPHENSON is the second of eight sons born to Frank M. Stephenson and Princess A. Stephenson, nee Cromwell. Aubrey Stephenson, a well-known business entrepreneur, is the Founder, President and CEO of Federal Management Systems, Inc. (FMS), a government contractor supporting agencies nationally and internationally.

Mr. Stephenson holds an M.B.A. in Business Administration, a B.A. in Economics, a B.B.A. in Accounting (Magna cum Laude) from Howard University, and has done Post Graduate work in Public Administration at George Mason University.

With his extensive academic background, Mr. Stephenson turned barely visible opportunities into significant growth and business successes. Other testimonies to his enviable track record include awards from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Internal Revenue Service.

In 2001, he received the Entrepreneurship Award from the Institute of Caribbean Studies. Most recently, he was honoured for his "outstanding service to the Nation as a member of the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers." Under Mr. Stephenson's leadership, FMS

has grown into a multinational, multi-million dollar enterprise with over 1,000 employees. At the same time, the 20-year-old FMS has maintained a strong commitment to community development, the strongest testimonial to its founder's character.

FMS provides Security Services to the U.S. Embassies in Guyana, Curaçao and the Bahamas where FMS has in excess of 700 security personnel. In addition to its security and intelligence operations, FMS provides a wide range of professional and administrative services including accounting, auditing and finance; information technology; debt management and User Fees; business management studies; library management; facilities management and operations; grants management; human resources services. Among the firm's clientele are the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Institutes of Health, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Food and Drug Administration; U.S. Small Business Administration, the National Science Foun-

ation, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the United Nations, the Inter-American Foundation, the Peace Corps, to name a few.

Awarded one of the largest contracts at the U.S. Department of State, FMS today manages a staff of 300 in 125 projects. Since 1995, finance, accounting and audits represent other areas of FMS leadership at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (then U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS]). In January 2001, the U.S. Attorney General honoured FMS for assisting INS in achieving its first ever clean audit.

Using the FMS resources, Mr. Stephenson applied his skills and experiences to serve the community. For several summers in the 1990's, he provided job training to D.C. youth and taught business at high schools. He sponsors sports events in the U.S. and the Caribbean, donates equipment and resources to community sports and church organizations. He provides academic scholarships to needy children.

Aubrey A. Stephenson will be conferred with the Golden Arrow of Achievement (AA) of the 2011 National Awards.

Congratulations, Aubrey! You've done Buxton proud.

JUNE MARCIA GRIFFITH-COLLISON



June Marcia Griffith-Collison is the daughter of Inez Abrams and Lincoln Griffith, both of whom are now deceased. She attended Friendship Methodist (Primary), Buxton Secondary and Tutorial High schools.

Her athletic prowess earned her the first medal in a Women's event as a Guyanese in the Pan Am Games in 1979 in the 400 meters—a controversial decision; she was forced to settle for the silver medal

after a 51.81-second dead-heat photo finish. In 1982 she won the 400 meters in the Central American and Caribbean Games, and in 1984 she represented Guyana at the Summer Olympic Games.

June has long been respected for her ability to combine athletic success on the track with academic success in the classroom. With a Bachelor Science degree in Banking and Money Management and a Masters in Business Ad-

ministration from Adelphi University, this remarkable Buxtonian has inspired not only Buxtonians but young athletes throughout the Caribbean.

June has been nominated to receive the Medal of Service (MS) of the 2011 National Wards.

Congratulations to June Marcia Griffith-Collison. You have done Buxton proud!

Buxton-Friendship Heritage Week 2011

24th July — 1st August

A celebration of

Heritage, Friendship & Pride

International Year for People of African Descent

170th Anniversary of Purchase of Friendship

173rd Anniversary of Emancipation

International Year of Youth

Embracing Our Heritage

Empowering Our Community!

Web site: www.buxtonguyana.net

COTAB SET RECORD STRAIGHT

Dear Editor:

Firstly, let me commend you, on behalf of Committee to Assist Buxton/Friendship (COTAB), for the stellar work you and your team are doing to keep us in the Diaspora informed with what is happening in Buxton through your newsletter. It is with this in mind that I am obliged to respond to statements that were made by Mr. Blair, Chairman of the Buxton/Foulis Neighbourhood Democratic Council, who was interviewed in your May issue of Buxton Express.

In that article, Mr. Blair was quoted as saying: *“No other group, from North America, Canada, wherever..., has ever made any direct contribution to the village, no project...nothing at all. Overseas-based groups have no interest in it [Village Hall]. They ask nothing; they never come in to visit [the Council]”*

COTAB takes issue with these statements and cannot sit idly by and allow Mr. Blair’s insinuation to be misinterpreted by your readers, some of whom support and/or donate to our cause. As such, I would like to set the record straight.

1. **Reference overseas-based groups having no interest in the Village Office:** In July, 2006 Mr. George Culley, an executive member of COTAB, was tasked with donating a computer to the Village Office, during his visit to Buxton. When he went to the office, he was told that they already had a new computer and did not have space to accommodate another one. Hence, the computer was donated to a student.
2. **Direct contribution to the Village, no project:** COTAB has made numerous contributions to the village, never through the NDC, but through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and community groups:
 - a) In 2004, COTAB contributed US\$2,000 to Mr. Morris Wilson’s Outreach Emancipation Organisation for the installation of fifty streetlights as well as toilets and floodlights at the Ball Ground. This may be classified as direct contribution since the NDC did not have to allocate funds to these projects. Incidentally, from reports received and my own observation during my 2010 visit, no maintenance appears to have been done on these projects.
3. **Other Contributions:**
 - a) August 2010:
 - i. Donated two uniforms to each of 25 primary school students, employing seamstresses from the village
 - ii. Donated books to the Library, Daycare Centres, Toucan II Multipurpose Club and Buxton Youth Developers
 - iii. Donated Sports items to Buxton Youth Developers and Toucan II clubs
 - iv. Donated US\$1,285 to Amandi Arthur Medical Fund
 - b) October 2009: Donated a total of eight computers to students and groups in the village. Six students, Toucan II and Buxton Youth Developers were the beneficiaries of this donation.
 - c) April 2009: Donated CDN\$2,000 towards the Feeding & Teaching Programme at Buxton Primary School [Missionary].
 - d) February 2009: Donated 52 bicycles to Toucan II Club and soccer and other sports items to Buxton United Football Club.
 - e) August 2008: Presented a bursary award of CDN\$1,500 to Mark Ageda to assist with his education at Guyana School of Agriculture.
 - f) July 2007: Donated 10 computers to outstanding students in the village and several books to the

(Continued on page 7)

COTAB SET RECORD STRAIGHT

(Continued from page 6)

- community Library. Also presented a CDN\$300 bursary award to the most outstanding student in the village.
- g) 2006: Contributed CDN\$2,000 to Project BX, a HIV/AIDS centre in the village.
 - h) February 2005: Donated CDN\$5,000 to the Disaster Relief Committee in Buxton to aid the immediate and post-flood needs of the community and its environs. Five barrels filled with food items, toys and books were also shipped.
 - i) August 2003: Donated three Cannon photocopiers and two boxes of copy paper (each) to Buxton Primary, Friendship Primary and Buxton Community High schools. A TV/VCR unit was also presented to Company Road Primary School.
 - J) 2002: Members donated 100 lbs. of pencils, pens, crayons, markers and other writing implements to two of the Primary schools in the village.

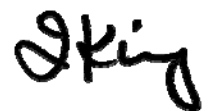
Most of the aforementioned donations were made in response to requests received from various groups in the village. Mr. Blair's office has never submitted any request to COTAB. We avoid taking a prescriptive approach to donations.

COTAB was established with the explicit intention of providing assistance to economic, educational and sports projects that have the potential to contribute to the development of Buxton-Friendship and its people.

Mr. Blair's comments seem to allude to direct assistance to the NDC. COTAB, like most other organizations, work with NGOs and leave it to them to involve the NDC. It is essential, when requesting aid, that transparency and accountability be paramount.

We are disappointed that Mr. Blair, as chairman of the NDC, would make such reckless statements. We hope that this information will goad Chairman Blair to devise schemes that would allow him to be appraised with what is happening in "his own backyard".

Sincerely,



Ingrid Ifill-King,
President



COTAB's president, Ingrid Ifill-King (left) handing over bags of books to a staff member of Buxton Library during the 2010 170th Anniversary celebration.

BESAC RESPONDS TO NDC CHAIR

The Editor,

Please permit BESAC, INC the opportunity to respond to an article in your May 2011 issue in which the Chairman of the Buxton-Foulis Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC) made comments about overseas groups and their response to development projects within the Buxton community.

As one of the overseas-based groups, we have contributed and continue to contribute to the improvement and development of the Buxton-Friendship community. Toward this end, we have installed street signs throughout Buxton-Friendship. We have also donated the following:

- Footballs & Uniforms to the Buxton United Sports Club
- Tennis tables and balls to the Toucan II Multipurpose Club
- Recreational Facilities to Friendship Nursery School
- 500 Food hampers & clothes to Villagers after the massive flood of 2005

We sponsor the following:

- Full scholarships to students to attend the University of Guyana
- A Literary Competition among Elementary school students
- A feeding program at Alicia Day Care for pre-school children.

We have also awarded high achievers of the Secondary School Entrance Examination.

We have in our possession this chairman's request to BESAC for modern office equipment for the Village Office. A computer, printer and fax machine were handed over to the chairman in the summer of 2002. We will give the chairman the benefit of the doubt and conclude that he forgot about BESAC'S involvement with the village office. As of 2010, the equipment has not been installed. We hope by now it is installed and being fully utilized. BESAC, INC is unaware of any other request for assistance made by the chairman on behalf of the NDC.

We are sure that the other overseas-based groups are qualified to speak for themselves but for us at BESAC, many of our plans and programs were disrupted during the recent violence within the community. (the chairman must be fully aware of the disruptive nature of that period, he being so close to the ground.) We do hope as the community rebounds the overseas-based groups and representatives from the community can have an organized forum through which all assistance can be channeled.

Respectfully,

Vashti Cockfield
Secretary BESAC, INC.

Editor's Note:

BESAC, INC. (Buxtonians for the Social and Cultural Advancement of the Community) is a United States tax-exempt charitable organization based in Brooklyn, New York.

BUXTON-FOULIS N.D.C. CHAIRMAN BLAIR BACK PEDDLES ON CHARGES AGAINST GROUPS



In last month's issue of Buxton Express, we carried a lengthy interview with Chairman of the Buxton—Foullis Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC), Mr. Randolph Blair. He spoke about some of the challenges faced by the Council in its effort to provide essential services to the Buxton-Friendship community. He also took the opportunity to charge overseas-based community groups with not doing anything for the village, while he lauded a local promoter, who had donated to the Council, part of his profit from an event he held in

Buxton. The Chairman's exam words were: *"No other group, from North America, Canada, wherever ..., has ever made any direct contribution to the village, no project...nothing at all."* This charge drew sharp responses from some in the Diaspora, and has since been meticulously answered by two groups—Committee to assist Buxton (COTAB) in Toronto, Canada and BESAC, INC in New York, USA. Both of these responses are carried elsewhere in this issue of Express. On the eve of Mr. Blair's

return trip to Guyana, he called the writer and attempted to polish the controversial statement. He ventured to say that the particular comment pertained to funding assistance received for the reconstruction of the Village Hall and new NDC office, adding: *"Interventions were made, by other groups, in the village, but not directly through the NDC."* The chairman also then expressed the view that those interventions benefited several projects and programmes in the community.

Interventions were made, by other groups, in the village, but not directly through the NDC."
Chairman Randolph Blair

Heritage Week Calendar of Activities

| Date | Day | Time | Events |
|------------------------|-----------|------|--|
| 24 th July | Sunday | | Service at St. Augustine's Anglican Church / African Cultural Extravaganza |
| 25 th July | Monday | | Children's Day Camp / Evening Symposium |
| 26 th July | Tuesday | | Edutainment—Education through Entertainment |
| 27 th July | Wednesday | | A Day at the Museum |
| 28 th July | Thursday | | Tea Party for the Elderly |
| 29 th July | Friday | | Groundings with the Family / Dance |
| 30 th July | Saturday | | Prayer Breakfast / Concert |
| 31 st July | Sunday | | Day of Sports / Campfire / Cultural Show & Midnight Libation Ceremony |
| 1 st August | Monday | | Emancipation Service / Feast & Drumming |

MASTER'S DEGREE



Congratulations to Jenelle Lois Azore, the daughter of Horace and Hazel Azore. Jenelle graduated from Hampton University on May 8, 2011 with a Master's Degree in Architecture. Jenelle is the first generation of American-born children in her family to receive a Master's Degree. Jenelle aspires to work in her field in the future.

INSIDE TIPPERARY



This picture, taken on 25th June, 2011, shows workers applying paint to the interior walls of Tipperary. It also shows the stage, which is now located on the western side (back) of the building. Behind it are dressing rooms.

See next page for exterior look

Buxton Government Secondary School

Centre School Alumni Reunion

Saturday, July 2, 2011

123-11 150th Street, South Ozone Park, New York 11420
(between 124th & 123rd Streets / just off North Conduit Avenue)

Barbeque Lime

Donation Requested

Ladies—A Contribution to Food Menu / Men—A Contribution to Drinks

For More Information, contact:

Rupert Sampson: 917-676-8757 Eulene Fraser (Bernard): 404-422-0596
Errol & Vashti Cockfield: 347-623-3743 Dr. Wilbert Hope: 718-510-2687

TIPPERARY HALL IN LIVING COLOUR



Tipperary Hall slated to be fully completed by end of July, 2011

Pictures taken 26th June, 2011. Thanks to Rollo Younge.



2011—BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP HERITAGE MAGAZINE—2011

BUXTON: Our Heritage

BUXTON: Our Heritage



FRIENDSHIP, we treasure

Embracing Our Heritage; Empowering Our Community

SHAREHOLDERS OF FRIENDSHIP
HISTORY & LANDMARKS OF FRIENDSHIP
THE SEAFORTH FAMILY TREE
HISTORY OF CHURCHES IN FRIENDSHIP

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To place an order, please e-mail us at: buxtonexpress@aol.com

Telephone: 718-342-0040 (Lorna Campbell) / 646-727-5937 (Mboya Wood)

In Buxton/Guyana, contact Buxton Restoration Committee members

Rollo Younge: 639-9035 / Barbara Thomas-Holder: 220-3411 / Nandi Kellman: 274-0601

ST. ANTHONY'S R.C. ALUMNI LAUNCH SUPPORT GROUP



Friendship Primary School

(formerly St. Anthony's Roman Catholic School)

"The Roman Project 86 recognizes that each child is an individual; that all children are creative; that all children want to succeed."

Recently, several alumni of Friendship Primary School, also known as Roman School, created a non-profit organization known as "The Roman Project 86" (TRP86). It was established with an objective to aid and assist in the continuing success of the above school and thus our community as a whole.

TRP86 recognizes that each child is an individual; that all children are creative; that all children want to succeed. Our mission is:

- ◆ To develop young men and women with actively expressive minds.
- ◆ To create a challenging learning environment that encourages high expectations for success through development-appropriate instruction that allows for individual differences and learning styles.
- ◆ To use innovative techniques to enhance life-long learning through technology varied instructional strategies, artistic programmes, sports programme and interdisciplinary units.

We reach for an atmosphere of cooperation, with respect for individual differences and community values.

We are committed to assure learning experiences

that will assist our students to achieve their greatest potential to adapt and adjust to a diverse and ever changing society as they matriculate through their academic careers.

We are dedicated to serving our students with the understanding that diversity of gender, physical or mental ability, culture, and background are strength to be respected and celebrated.

As members of this organization we applaud the amazing educators, who cared about our future and express that unselfishly on a daily basis. They taught, parented and discipline as needed. We're proud; founders and associated members alike of our little part to give back to each student what was deposit to us freely.

Recently a few friends decided to reconnect with old friends. The search began with phone calls, text, face book etc. By cities, states and countries, one by one we made contact. Though physically removed and separated, we have found a way to reunite and try to make a difference. Soon a social network was built, reminiscing about old times and catching up with the new. We are the graduated class of 1986 and twenty five years later; we have chosen to lend our

talents, aiding in this joint mission.

We are an investment of our communities and families; and want to invest in the youths of Buxton so that each student feels the love and support it takes to strive for their best.

At this introductory level of our organization we're implementing the step by step process to carry out the task ahead. Convinced and committed in our efforts; we firmly believe in the goal of this organization, its charter, and policy by which this organization was birthed.

We are committed to all programs (long and short term). Students of this community with the resources of "TRP86" will continue to preserve, improve and dignify the core fabric of the teacher / student relationship as it correlates to our community.

The Board:

PRESIDENT

Ayana Grant

SECRETARY

Shemiel Cambridge

PUBLIC RELATIONS

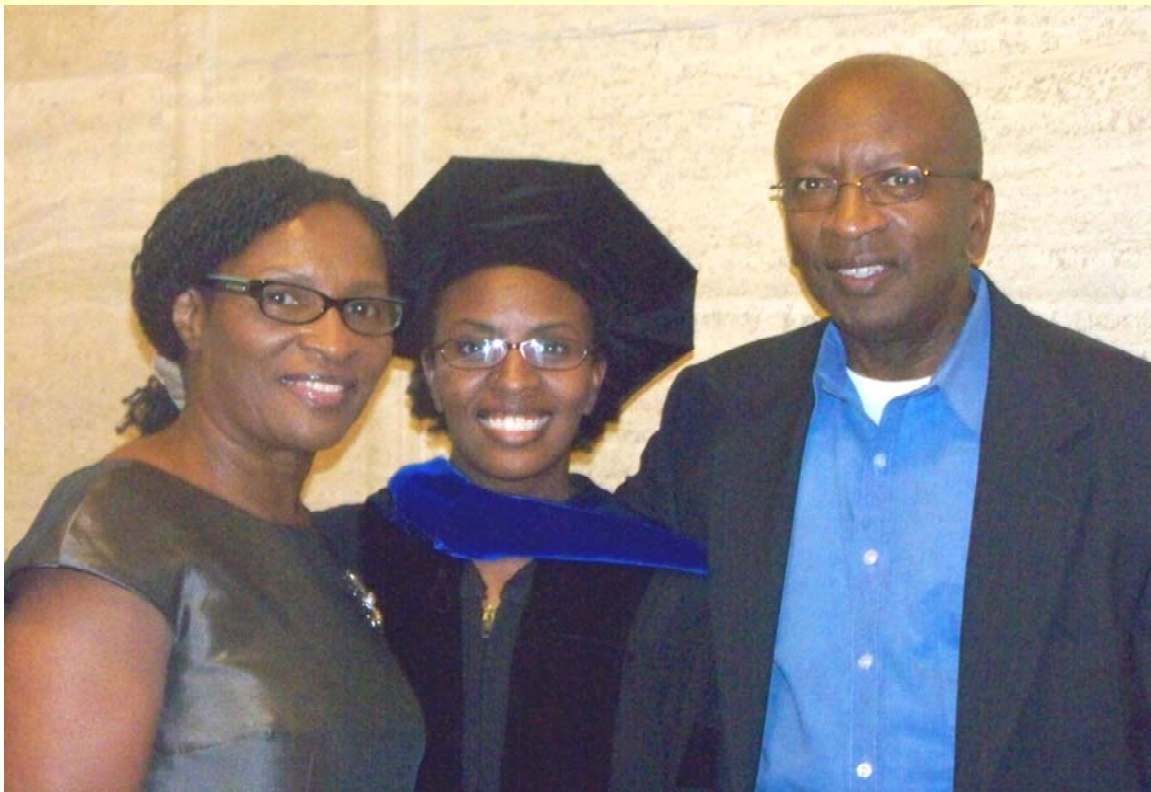
Omari Nkosi

E-mail Address:

Theromanproject86@yahoo.com

Friend us at Face book:
[theromanproject eighty six](https://www.facebook.com/theromanprojecteightysix)

DR. AYANNA ABRAMS



Congratulations to Dr. Ayanna Abrams, who recently graduated from Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Illinois, USA with a Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology. She is the daughter of Mr. Howard (Howie) and Mrs. Winifred Abrams.

In above photo, Dr. Ayanna Abrams (centre) poses with her proud parents at the graduation ceremony.

Fish Fry



BESAC, Inc

Saturday, July 9, 2011

from 5:00 p.m.

Delectable Guyanese Treats

123-11 150th Avenue

(just off North Conduit at 124th Street)

Jamaica, NY 11220



Errol & Vashti Cockfield

718-843-3690

Wilbert Hope

718-235-0718

John Massay

347-228-6939

Monica Sandiford

718-284-0911

REVISITING OUR AFRICAN-NESS

Imperative for Year's Success

“The record of our African-ness dates back thousands of years, while we have been resident in Guyana for just over five hundred years. We must not confuse our place on the planet with our place in humanity. There is no confusion in being African and Guyanese at the same time. Our place among mankind and our place on the planet create no discord. There is fusion and not confusion in being African and Guyanese at the same time. Because these two qualities meet in us simultaneously, we should revisit and relive our African-ness.”

“As a people of African heritage, to know where we are going demands that we know from where we have come. It is that knowledge of the past, with its glory and tragedy, which will equip us to face the challenges of the future,”

Dr. Wycherley Gumbs.

As we continue to observe International Year for People of African Descent, the need to know who we are becomes strikingly evident. The call to revisit our African-ness nudges us to pursue self-knowledge as we read and research the literature that informs us about the significant achievements of our ancestors. African history is not a subject that is pervasively studied and debated openly by Africans, particularly Africans in the Diaspora.

The writer is aware of the many readers who will be dismissive of and uncomfortable with the need to revisit African history. However, the primary question of humanity is: **“who are we in the world culturally, historically, politically, and socially?”** The answer to this question determines our **choices** and our **chances**.

According to Louis Leaky, a white anthropologist, the troubling thing is that many people of African descent believe the lies about Africa and African accomplishments that have been perpetuated by scores of white scholars. They

remain completely ignorant or have very little knowledge about African history despite the availability of libraries of books on African history. DuBois stated that the greatest battle of the 21st century and the entire millennium is the battle for the African mind. Mbeki expressed concern that there are many black people everywhere who urge constantly that we should not speak of the past. They say the past does not exist, and all that remains is the future. However, a sixth century Venetian artist wrote, **“from the examples of the past, the man of the present acts prudently so as not to imperil the future.”**

Nehusi wrote that black people who have been convinced that their past is empty, backward and shameful normally resist any attempt to research and discuss that past. Martin Carter called this behavior **“self-contempt or scorn of self.”**

The main objective of the Year is to raise awareness of the challenges facing people of African descent. It is hoped that the year will foster discussions that will generate proposals for solutions to tackle these challenges.

The first question, **“who are we?”** may attract an infinite number of answers. The answer to the question may be so obvious that it will need no debate. The

By Rennie Parris



best answer for us as individuals and as a group should serve us in making good sense of the world in which we live and the challenges that confront us daily. The short answer to the question, “who are we?” is, we are Africans who have lived in Guyana for generations. We are, therefore, African Guyanese.

The second question, **“who is an African?”** follows logically. Africans share some common physical characteristics. Wikipedia defines Africoids as people of Africa and their descendants in the Diaspora with tightly curled hairs, distinguishable lips, and melanin blackened skin. Several writers of African history remind us that we have been Africans longer than we have been Guyanese. The record of our African-ness dates back thousands of years, while we have been resident in Guyana for just over five hundred years. We must not confuse

(Continued on page 15)

REVISITING OUR AFRICAN-NESS

(Continued from page 14)

our place on the planet with our place in humanity. There is no confusion in being African and Guyanese at the same time. Our place among mankind and our place on the planet create no discord. There is fusion and not confusion in being African and Guyanese at the same time. Because these two qualities meet in us simultaneously, we should revisit and relive our African-ness. Why we should revisit our African-ness? If we are to understand the challenges we face as people of Afri-

can descent we must study, teach and discuss the history of Africa and its people. Africans were not slaves when the system of chattel slavery converged upon them. Slavery brutally ruptured the lives of millions of African men, women and children. Africans were torn from their land, homes, and families. According to Nehusi the slavery system assassinated the culture, identity, orientation, social, economic, and political empowerment of the enslaved Africans. They were forced to work other sets of lands without pay to generate wealth and

other economic benefits for strangers. This is the situation that causes us to be facing lots of challenges daily. This is what we must continually seek to correct. We may not be able to regain our pre-enslavement status during the Year. However, we must understand that physical enslavement has been replaced with psychological enslavement. It is this form of enslavement that is responsible for us to experience the challenges that we face as people of African descent. **Psychological enslavement feeds off our ignorance of self.** Igno-

rance is responsible for our low self esteem, poor intrinsic self worth, dysfunctional families, disunity, landlessness, a passionate hate for one another, and a perennial state of economic, cultural, social and political disempowerment. We must aggressively replace ignorance with knowledge. If we are to overcome the challenges that we face as People of African Descent, we must cease packaging and repackaging ignorance, and end its distribution from generation to generation.

Victoria Conference Leadership Committee

Invites You to Support

Victoria/Belfield Community

Fundraising Event

Saturday, July 9, 2011

from 9:00 p.m.

HQ Lounge

1609 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226

Donation: \$10

For more information on how you can support this worthy cause, call:

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Guyana's
First Village

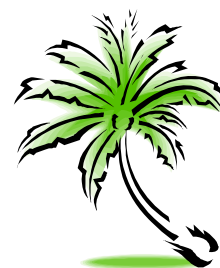
Environmental Clean-up Day

&

Conference

Saturday, 30th July, 2011

Victoria, ECD



SERIOUS PROVERBS CAN PROVIDE HUMOUR

By Wayne Jones

It is often said that just as a picture is worth a thousand words, a proverb is worth a little more for its scope and implications. Between two complicated points, a proverb can stand as the shortest route. Proverbs encapsulate advice or instructions on ways to navigate and manoeuvre within or around life's complexities. And as life becomes more and more complex and inflation-driven, the more useful and dependable they become. Found in all cultures, some proverbs can be very serious while bearing some humour. The older Americans in the deep South have one that says, with sweet irony: *'It is wrong for the worm to argue with the hen.'* Though obviously trite and figurative, it pre-

sents a universal and very contemporary truth. Even older Italians might recall the one that says, *'Mussolini is always right, particularly when he is wrong.'* Some developing countries are desperately brandishing their incremental democratic gains, while their leaderships display tendencies not too different to those that prompted the Italians to coin that proverb. Jamaicans would warn that *'Yuh kyaan seh yuh like fish head, but yuh frighten the eyes.'* Why are some folks so hard to please? And why the discrimination? If you eating fish, you eating fish. It is just when you tell her that you love her and she has to remind you that: *'If you say you love me, you have to love me with all my faults and three children.'* So proverbial wisdom discour-

ages us from recklessly using words as love and like.

Japanese politeness led the Chinese to coin this one: *'Too much courtesy is discourtesy.'*

My Caribbean colleague gave a demonstration of it when he told me about his experience of trying to find a job in Canada, similar to his old teaching job back home. After weeks of steady pavement grinding, with shoe heels well worn

down, he finally landed a factory job. On his arrival at the factory that Monday morning, he was told to go down to the basement and that he would meet the supervisor there. After about two minutes in the basement, he said a man came to him and said. "Sir, would you mind taking this broom and sweep the floor, please." "Me sweep, nah nah," was my friend's initial response, until he soon came to his senses.

Clive Abrams

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Book Review by Dr. C. Quintin Bacchus

DEM SEH: BUX'N TALES

Its very name conjures up images of confabulations at Rum Shops, Line Top and Road Bridge - in no way does it disappoint. "Dem Seh: Buxn Tales" is an elucidation of Buxtonians at their best as they go through the activities of daily living. Buxtonians are always known for using therapeutic and "tantalizing" comedy to resolve adversity. As a result, a life of happiness, hope and healing, all at the expense of a good sense of humor, is experienced.

Reading this book will make you laugh, it will also make you think.

Owen Ifill must have known that there is enduring value in oral culture and tradition. Diligently, he compiles and transmits a

plethora of folktales so that Buxtonians can make sense of their existence and cope with the Buxton in which they live. These "Buxn tales" are the renditions of the rich mental agility these Buxtonians possess. More significantly, these tales are the idioms and the rhythms to which only Buxtonians can understand and dance.

In expressing this profound and perplexed message of Buxton Pride, Ifill flouts the queen's vernacular, and brings into play the lexicon that is mostly treasured by Buxtonians. Emerging from this bold effort, he taps into the psyche of the common man by authenticating his sociological and psychological reality. Ifill thoughtfully blends a chalk full of amus-

ing false names, the lifeblood of Buxton, with social scripts and intoxicating narratives to bring out the uniqueness of Buxtonians as they embrace life.

Fittingly enough, this book is loaded with cutting edge satires expertly delivered with streams of consciousness and flashbacks. A deep sense of nostalgia is disseminated from the beginning to the end. For those literature buffs, a slew of literary devices are cleverly immersed in every episode. Each story is saturated with allusions and hyperboles, adding a special kind of creative sophistication to the many characterizations and plots.

Without a doubt, this book captures the humility and

the humor of Buxtonians. It is a juicy page-turner for Buxtonians who love to laugh at themselves... this self-deprecating humor informs us of our vulnerability as well as our valor. It cannot be said enough... this book is a reminder of ordinary Buxtonians saying and doing extraordinary things in the midst of all the vicissitudes to stay happy and healthy without having lots of money. Above all, this book confirms the powerful voice of "dem seh" as the deciding force of reasoning, remedy and result when it comes to Buxton.

This book is available at \$15 per copy. Contact Owen Ifill - Phone: 646-894-4256 or E-mail:

owenifill2002@yahoo.com



Sholto Fox Memorial Health Fair



Organized by Dr. Frank Denbow

Free Blood Pressure Screening

Saturday, August 6, 2011

10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

The Rose Garden

4224 Church Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203

High Blood Pressure can be very dangerous without causing any symptoms

Come and have your blood pressure tested for free!

Video & Literature on Healthy Nutrition and Exercise

Live Entertainment

Free with Blood Pressure Check

A Chance to win one of many attractive prizes, including:

♥ A round-trip ticket for two, from New York to Guyana, on board Caribbean Airlines, plus a free weekend stay at the luxurious Princess Hotel located at Providence, EBD, Guyana

♥ A Treadmill

♥ Free 6-month Gym Memberships

♥ Several \$10 GT&T Phone Cards

Raffle Drawing at 3:00 p.m.

Phone Lorna Campbell: 718-342-0040

E-mail: lorna@buxtonguyana.net

Sponsored by Queen's College of Guyana Alumni Association (New York), Inc.

S.J. HOLDER:

A Graphic Tribute to An Afro-Guyanese Icon

A new book, covering the sterling contributions of Buxton entrepreneur and Village Chairman, the late Samuel Josephus Holder, is scheduled to be launched on 1st July at a ceremony to be held at Buxton Secondary School (St. Augustine's). The book, **S.J. Holder: A Graphic Tribute to an Afro-Guyanese Icon**, is a collaborative effort of historian/author Tommy Payne and entrepreneur/business executive Aubrey Stephenson. Mr. Stephenson, a great grandson of Mr. Holder's, reportedly provided both the source material and financial support for the project. In an article for this year's Buxton Heritage Magazine, Mr. Payne gave a

brief insight into the achievements of the Buxtonian icon: "Born in 1870, S. J. Holder was the epitome of the progressive spirit unleashed by the historic '1871 Memorial to the Queen'. He refused to allow his tremendous business acumen to be trammelled by the traditional and still activity hostility that the plantocracy felt for village movement and the villagers. The success which he achieved reached its zenith in his dry goods store – a veritable emporium on account of both the spread of its stock and its significant location – which was hailed by his fellow villagers as the finest example

of its kind between Georgetown and Mahaica (if not Georgetown and Mahaicony, or even Rosignol) and which probably reinforced the heroic legend since trains seemed to tarry at the nearby Train Station to accommodate the many customers from the 'East Coast corridor'. Holder also enhanced the village's status when, during his tenure as Village Chairman, he spearheaded the development of the Recreation Ground which was opened in 1924 in an atmosphere of pomp and splendour." Information on price and availability will be provided later.

Buxton Pride Steel Orchestra



Members of Buxton Pride Steel Orchestra were in all smiles after each of them was outfitted with a free pair of Nike's Air Jordan sneakers in mid June, thanks to Guyana's Ministry of Education Welfare Department. The donation was facilitated by Ms. Mercylene Moses (Patsy), pictured in the extreme right photo, Secretary of the Buxton Restoration Committee and a Guidance Counselor in the department.

In the left photo, Seon Thomas, Kevin Europe and Daniel Daly hold up their new footwear, while in the middle, Tenisha Nero and Danetta McCurchin pose with theirs. A week earlier, the players also received a gift of T-shirts from the Education Ministry.

During this month, the band performed at the commissioning ceremony of the Visitors Mangrove Centre at Cove & John and at the elegant Georgetown Club.

THE BUSH COOK A SWEET TASTE OF HOME

The Buxton-Friendship Heritage Group extends its sincere thanks to the many villagers and friends who enthusiastically supported its June 18th Buxton Bush Cook in Brooklyn. The event, aided by fine weather, was a success.

We were indeed very heartened with the feedback, which overwhelmingly indicated that a good time was had by all. Perhaps, this description sums it up best: "It was not just nice, it was sweet!" It was a sweet taste of Home.

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all the drummers and singers who came out and enriched the event with their incredible performances. It was also a special treat to see the ladies—Donna Bacchus, Goldie Neptune and Dolsy Lewis, do their thing right alongside their male counterparts.

Our special thanks to the McDonald family for their generous help in preparing the sumptuous menu, Mboya Wood for some absolutely delicious Con-



kie, Vashti Cockfield for her donation of Mauby, Noel Moses (friend) for his donation of ice, and Jacqueline Goodridge for her cash donation.

We wish to also thank Wendella Hodge, Jacqueline Moore, Enid Barnes,

Shawn McDonald, Nicola McDonald, Vaulda Nieuenkirk, Kenneth Wilkinson and Maude Ann Rodrigues (friend) for their ready and needed assistance.

Again, thanks to all.

C
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B

Committee To Assist Buxton-Friendship

Annual CARIBANA Fundraising Dance

SATURDAY, July 30, 2011

DJ Solid Gold

Toronto East Masonic Temple

15 Chisholm Ave.

N of Danforth, W of Main St.

(Behind Kentucky Chicken Restaurant)

401 to Victoria Park Ave. S to Dawes Rd. (R) to Danforth Ave. (R) to Chisholm Ave. (R) or

QEW to Lakeshore E to Coxwell Ave. (L) to Danforth Ave. (R) to Chisholm (L) or

DVP to Don Mills S, to O'Connor Dr. (L) to Woodbine Ave. (R) to Danforth Ave. (L) to Chisholm Ave. (L)

V. Moses: 905-791-3412
P. Adams: 416-752-4562

I. King: 416-431-0273
M. Parris: 416-636-2961

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Buxton-Friendship Express

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

| DAY & DATE | EVENT | VENUE | DETAILS | ORGANIZER(S) | CONTACT |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| July 2, 2011 Saturday | Buxton Govt. Secondary School Alumni Reunion (Centre School) | 123-11 150th Ave S. Ozone Park, NY 11420 (off North Conduit Avenue) | Starting at 4 p.m. | Rupert Sampson Eulene Fraser Errol Cockfield Wilbert Hope | 917-676-8757 404-422-0596 347-623-3743/5301 718-235-0718 |
| July 9, 2011 Saturday | Souse Party Fish Fry | Washington, DC 123-11 150th Ave Jamaica, NY 11420 | From 5:00 p.m. | CIMBUX, Inc. BESAC, Inc. | 347-623-3743/5301 |
| July 24—August 1 | Heritage Week | Buxton-Friendship Guyana | | Buxton-Friendship Restoration C'tee & Heritage Group | 592-220-3411 592-274-0052 592-639-9035 |
| July 30, 2011 Saturday | Caribana Dance | Toronto E. Ma- sonic Temple 15 Chisholm Ave N of Danforth Ave W of Main St | Ticket: \$20 | COTAB | 905-791-3412 416-431-0273 416-752-4562 416-636-2961 |
| August 6, 2011 Saturday 10:00 — 4:00 | Sholto Fox Memorial Health Fair | ROSE GARDEN 4224 Church Ave Brooklyn, NY 11203 | FREE Blood Pressure Screening | QC Alumni Asso- ciation | Lorna Campbell 718-342-0040 |
| August 14, 2011 Sunday | Family Fun Day | | | CIMBUX, Inc. | |
| September 2, 2011 Friday | Pre-Labor Day Dance | Nazareth Hall Brooklyn, NY | | BESAC, Inc. | 718-843-3690 |
| | | | | | |

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You can download past issues of Buxton-Friendship Express from our Website at: www.buxtonguyana.net

Embracing Our Heritage; Empowering Our Community