CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

“GUYANA AT 50: Reflect Our Journey – Forging Unity And Embracing Modernity”

Our Vision

New York
June 4 – 12, 2016
www.celebrateguyana50thinyc.com
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Jennifer Ferreira-Dougall, Member
Rovin Rozario, Esq., General Counsel
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Sub-committees

1. Interfaith Prayer Service:  
   Chair - Dr. Candace Cummings. Co-Chair: Mr. Kishore Seunarine.

2. Symposium:  
   Chair - Dr. Ivelaw Griffith. Co-Chairs, Dr. Vibert Cambrige and Dr. Kimani Nehusi.

3. “Guyana Gives Back” – A Day of Volunteerism:  
   Chair - Dr. Janice Emmanuel Co-Chairs: Dr. Steven Carvy, Dr. Rohan Somar, Attorney Cheddi Jagan, II, Dr. Jacqueline Gulstone and Attorney Rovin Rozario, Dr. Beverly Belle.

4. “Invest Guyana” Business and Investment Conference:  
   Chair - Mr. Ewart Marshall. Co-Chairs: Ms. Felicia Persaud, Ms. Anita Jaikaran, Mrs. Sybil Chester, Dr. Shamir Ally.

5. United Nations Cocktail Reception and Exhibition:  
   Chairs - Ambassador George Talbot. Co-Chairs: Mr. Troy Torrington, Ms. Claire Goring, Ms. Lourdeth Ferguson.

6. Flag Raising Ceremony:  
   Chairs: Dr. Sandra Harte. Co-Chairs: Ms. Sandra Harte, Mr. Baryn Benn, Ms. Ira Lewis.

7. Unity Concert and Cultural Extravaganza:  
   Chair - Ms. Rose October-Edun. Co-Chair: Mr. Malcolm Hall

8. President’s Cup Soccer Tournament & Youth:  
   Chair: Mr. Omotolo Goulding. Co-Chair: Mr. Jason Waldron, Ms. Joycelyn Smith

9. State Dinner:  
   Co-Chairs: Ms. Lourdeth Ferguson. Co-Chair: Mr. Rickford Burke, Ms. Claire Goring.

10. Mashramani:  
    Chair: Mr. Rickford Burke. Co-Chairs: Mr. Jack Barat, Mr. Sean London, Mr. Jason Waldron, Attorney Cheddie Jagan, II, Ms. Brenda Hooper-Marshall. Mr. James Richmond, Ms. Lakshmee Singh

11. Protocol, Invitations, Commemorative Journal, Memorabilia & Souvenirs:  
    Co-Chairs Ms. Claire Patterson-Mona and Mr. Standhope Williams.

12. Media, Public Relations and Diaspora Engagement:  
    Chair: Mr. Nevlon Duguid.

13. Fund Raising:  
    Co-Chairs: Consul General Brentnold Evans, Ms. Ann Narine, Mr. George Taitt, Ms. Janice Hall, Attorney Rhonda Binda.

Overview

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana gained independence from Great Britain on May 26th, 1966. In 2016, the nation will celebrate its Golden Jubilee Anniversary of Independence. To commemorate this historic milestone, the diaspora in the New York metropolitan area established the 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York) to plan a celebration in collaboration with the Consulate General in New York and Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

The New York independence jubilation will consist of 11 events from June 4 to 12, 2016. The panoramic vision of the entire celebration will reflect on our nation’s independence journey, demonstrate inclusiveness, and promote harmony.

Our celebration theme ―“Guyana at 50: Reflect our Journey, Forging Unity and Embracing Modernity”― will be illustrated throughout the events, which will represent every facet of Guyanese society as well as our inimitable national character. The New York committee anticipates that this reflection on the last 50 years will help to shape our nation’s outlook for the future and construct the architecture for the diaspora’s participation in transforming Guyana into the modern society we all envision.

Our Team: Our committee comprises one hundred and thirty-one members from of the diaspora in the New York City metropolitan area, Atlanta, North Carolina and Florida. For efficacy, we have divided ourselves into fourteen sub-committees. We have seized the opportunity to build inter-personal and inter-cultural relationships and to collaborate in the interest of our nation.

It is an unprecedented assemblage of Guyanese of competence, extraordinary expertise and dedication to country. We are “The A-Team” of the 50th Independence celebration. Each member and sub-committee is committed to maximal input, cooperation and efficiency to make this celebration grand. We will demonstrate to the world the genius of Guyanese innovation whenever we put politics aside and work together for the common good of Guyana. This achievement will be an affirmation of the unique characteristic that binds us together – our indomitable Guyanese identity!

The cords that bind us as a team are woven with strands of national pride, love of country and each other and unshakable patriotism. No member is above another. Each member is equally important and essential to the overall success of the team. Our success as a team is inextricably linked, and dependent on the success of each member. This is why our efforts are selfless, altruistic and in the interest of the team and country. Once we proceed in unison, we will be
unstoppable. I am supremely confident that together we will produce the greatest celebration Guyanese have ever seen! Let us seize the moment!

**Legal Entity:** The Committee has been incorporated “Guyanese American Independence Commemoration Committee,” pursuant to the laws of the State of New York State. The Committee has, however, decided to continue doing business as (dba) “Guyana’s 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York)” for consistency and effective public relations.

**Committee Structure:** Following is the structure of the committee:

- **Full Committee:** Constitutes all members of the 50th Independence Anniversary Committee.
- **14 Sub-Committees:** Constitute all members assigned to various working groups.
- **Planning Committee:** Constitutes each elected officer plus all sub-committee chair/co-chairs.
- **Executive Committee:** Comprises elected officers, the Consul General, UN Ambassador, Deputy UN Ambassador and Deputy Consul General.

**Operations and Rules of Procedure:** The committee operates under its Bylaws as well as with guidance from its General Counsel. The Full Committee has invested the Planning Committee with all decision making powers. The Executive Committee is invested with decision making powers in between Planning Committee meetings.

**Oversight:** Sub-committees are responsible for executing the decisions of the Planning committee, and are subject to oversight by said committee. All activities, festivities, event programs and budgets are planned and executed by the respective sub-committees with the approval of the Planning Committee.

**Compliance:** To ensure compliance with protocol, policies and the law, “all” materials; including letters, invitations, releases, documents, ads, videos and/or promotional materials etc., prepared by any member or sub-committee are done after clearance by and with the express consent of the Planning Committee and its General Counsel. This is essential for good, prudent management, accountability, conformity to established rules procedure as well as for liability and risk management.

**Oneness With Our Homeland:** His Excellency, Brigadier David Granger, President of Guyana, Prime Minister The Honorable Moses Nagamootoo and other officials of the government of Guyana have been invited to attend the New York festivities. The celebration will be held over a period of one week. A State Dinner and Awards Ceremony and a grand finale Mashramani-styled, Guyanese-American Unity Parade will culminate our golden jubilee week. The Committee estimates an attendance of over twenty-five thousand nationals at the Parade.
New York Celebration Launch: The commemoration will be officially launched in December, 2015. This would be the harbinger of an amazing and robust eight-month public relations and social media campaign to keep the Diaspora informed and inspire unprecedented participation in this spectacular celebration which will make Guyanese proud.

Youth: The mandate of our committee assigns special importance to our young people as they will play a critical role in shaping our destiny and propelling Guyana to new heights of development. Our strategy, therefore, is not only anchored by their involvement in conceptualization and planning, but by them assuming principal roles in the execution of our celebration model. This is why most of the officers as well as most chairs/co-chairs are young people.

It is laudable that they have stepped forward to help lead this initiative. The Committee’s mandate, therefore, will not be complete unless we ignite a sense of cultural identity and spirit of community in our young people, and to work tirelessly to inspire their unprecedented participation in the commemorative events.

Diaspora Engagement: The Committee will employ all mediums of communication to keep the Diaspora fully apprised and engaged at every stage; from planning to execution. We will reach out to every Guyanese national, organization, religious congregation and community in the US and beyond, to come celebrate Guyana’s 50th Independence Anniversary in New York City.

Feedback: The Planning Committee welcomes your suggestions and ideas, and look forward to your constant feedback. This is the only way we’ll know when you think we are erring or omitting important considerations. Hence, you should not hesitate to contact me or any other members of the Planning Committee with criticisms, suggestions or ideas. Such engagements will make us stronger, better and more efficient.

Heartfelt Thank You: To our committee members, I thank you all sincerely for working willingly and assiduously to implement the vision and structure we conceptualized for this celebration. Your dedication to making our nation’s 50th Independence Anniversary celebration grand and unforgettable is unflinching, and your efficiency is beyond reproach. You are the best! I could not have asked for a more competent and skilled team of which I am exceptionally proud.

We have taken off, and will touchdown with the greatest show Guyanese have ever seen!

Rickford Burke
Chairman
Commemorative Events
June 4 -12, 2016

► January 16, 2015 - Official New York Celebration lunch – Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-10 Jamaica Ave, Queens, New York 11432

► June 4th - Interfaith Prayer Service, Queens
► June 4th – Unity Concert, Brooklyn
► June 5th - Symposium on the History & Development of Guyana, Queens
► June 6th – Exhibition of Guyanese Art, Permanent Mission of Guyana to the United Nations, Manhattan
► June 7th “- Invest Guyana” Business and Investment Conference, Manhattan
► June 8th - “Guyana Gives Back,” Day of Volunteerism, Queens & Brooklyn
► June 8th - United Nations Reception to Commemorate 50 Years of Membership, Manhattan
► June 9th - Flag Raising Ceremony, Paul Robeson Stadium, East Orange, New Jersey
► June 10th - Cultural Extravaganza, Prospect High School Performing Arts Theater Brooklyn, New York.
► June 11th - President’s Cup Soccer Tournament & Youth Fun Day, Brooklyn
► June 11th - State Dinner & Awards Ceremony (evening), Manhattan
► June 12th – “Mashramani in New York,” Brooklyn
INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE

“Embracing our Strong Faiths and Beliefs”

Saturday, June 4, 2016
Proposed Time: 1pm- 4pm, VIP Reception: 4pm-6pm
Proposed Venue: Performing Arts Center, York College
Chair: Dr. Candace Cummings. Co-Chair: Mr. Kishore Seunarine

The Vision: The vision of this Interfaith Prayer service is for Guyanese Brothers and Sisters of all Faith, Creeds and Denominations standing together as one, regardless of religious beliefs, praying for harmony and tolerance; national reconciliation, peace and unity, and for an epoch of change for a transformed, revived, progressive and healthy Guyana.

Proposed Theme: “Standing As One We Heal In Unity”

Our Scripture Verses:
2 Chronicles 7:14
‘If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then shall I hear from heaven forgive their sins and heal their land’. We endeavor to see Guyana healed and become a ‘Beacon of Hope & Light’ to the world.

Joel 2:23-25
‘Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and has cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and vats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.’

(Proposed Scripture from the Bhagavad-Gita and the Holy Quran TBD).
PROPOSED PROGRAM
1. Welcome Production: Multi-ethnic celebration that includes the Hindu, Muslim & Christian Faiths live band.

2. Opening Remark - Rickford Burke,
3. Opening Prayers - (Pastor, Pandit & Imam TBD)

4. Worship: God's Battalion Worship Team
5. Scripture Reading: Dr Janice Emmanuel

6. Strategic Prayers
   - Guyana's Spiritual Health & Healing
   - Presidency of Guyana

7. Dance

8. Strategic Prayers (Continued)
   - Prime Minister, Cabinet & Members of Parliament
   - Financial Institutions & Infrastructure

9. Song

10. Strategic Prayers (Continued)
    - Educational system
    - Health & Agricultural system

11. Steels pan Orchestra

12. Strategic Prayers (Continued)
    - Youth
    - Ethnic Unity

13. Performance by Youth Group

15. Sermon - Dr. Nigel Lewis

16. Performances by Gospel Artists

17. Vote of Thanks

18. Benediction
UNITY CONCERT
“Engaging our youth and promoting Unity”

Unity Concert
Saturday, June 4, 2016, 7p.m. to 4 a.m
Venue: TBD
Co-Chairs: Mr. Sean London, Ms. Michelle Gibbs, Mr. Jason Waldron, Mr. Rawle DaSalva

This event is being designed to bring international and/or recording artists of Guyanese and/or Caribbean lineage together with local Guyanese artists to produce a night of unforgettable entertainment for our young people, and to promote unity and healing in the global Guyanese community and nation. The committee is reaching out to all current Guyanese recording artists and will seek to pull off an attendance of approximately 10,000. The event will take the form of a mega show. Part of the proceeds of this event will be donated to a fund dedicated to the elimination of domestic violence, suicide and child homelessness among Guyanese.

The photographs/images above are not a representation of any agreement by any artiste/s to perform at this event but are an indication that said artist/s may be under consideration by the Committee.
Symposium
“Reinforcing Our Extraordinary Value of Education”

Sunday, June 5, 2016
York College, Queens
Chair: Dr. Ivelaw Griffith. Co-Chairs: Dr. Vibert Cambridge, Dr. Kimani Nehusi

“Guyana at 50: Understanding our Independence Journey,”

This event captures the concept for the Educational Component of the New York Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of The Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Why and What
Education has been an important variable in the pursuit of both individual and collective advancement in Guyana, as it has been in other societies, of course. Thus, having an educational component in our golden jubilee independence celebrations is not merely desirable, but necessary. This educational component will take the form of a symposium, with the following goals in mind; to:

1. Provide a forum for Guyanese in the Diaspora, especially those in the New York Tri-State Area, for people of Guyanese descent, and for other nationals to learn about the historical, economic, cultural, scientific, and other aspects of Guyana’s independence journey.

2. Enable Guyanese in the Diaspora, their descendants, and nationals of other nations to appreciate the notable achievements of Guyanese and their progeny within and outside Guyana.

3. Facilitate awareness by Guyanese and other nationals of some of the scholarly, literary, artistic, and other contributions of Guyanese within and outside the Republic to the development of Guyana and other societies, with maximum use made of technology and traditional and social media. The symposium will be the highpoint in a range of activities that shall unfold before June 5, 2016, on symposium day, and after the event, and will constitute an inter-generational conversation conducted from multiple disciplinary and methodological perspectives; offered through multiple media. The overall objective is permanent engagement in educating Guyanese and the world about ourselves and our land.
When and Where:
The symposium will be held on **Sunday, June 5, 2016**, at
York College, CUNY
94-20 Guy Brewer Blvd.,
Jamaica, NY 11451 2

How:
Under the theme **“Guyana at 50: Understanding our Independence Journey,”** the symposium will be designed to ponder three questions:

1. Who are we?
2. What has been our journey?
3. What can we further become?

The symposium will encompass an opening plenary session, a series of breakout workshops and lectures, and a closing plenary which will:
- Conclude with a final declaration/manifesto/closing statement agreed by the majority of participants.
- Determine diaspora support for a multi-disciplinary research and creative work initiative at tertiary-level institutions in Guyana geared to supporting national cohesion.

A symposium website will be established before the June 5, 2016 event, and the website content developed to support the symposium will be one of the legacies of our celebration of the nation’s 50th anniversary of independence. Moreover, we envisage having a display of notable works on Guyanese history, culture, politics, agriculture, literature, economics, sociology and other subjects. As well, we shall showcase recently-released or soon-to-be-released literary, scholarly, and artistic works by Guyanese in the Tri-state area.

As Martin Carter, our national poet, has advised, we shall understand that we come from history with our triumphs and our burdens, and go into our common future with our strengths. We shall be “pleased with the glories and sad with the sorrows” and “rich with the riches, poor with the loss.” Thus, while we celebrate our achievements, we shall not neglect to examine our challenges.
Exhibition Of Guyanese Art

Monday, June 6, 2016
Venue: United Nations, Manhattan
Chair: Ambassador George Talbot. Co-Chairs: Ms. Claire Goring, Mr. Carl Hazelwood

Vision: The vision of this exhibition is to showcase and promote illustrations, paintings, drawings, or other artistic works by Guyanese artists.

The images displayed herein are a mere collection of Guyanese art and do not represent any agreement between the Committee and the artist to display said or any other art work.
Tuesday, June 7, 2015
Venue: President’s Room - New York Athletic Club, Manhattan
Chair: Ewart Marshall. Co-Chairs are Ms. Felicia Persaud, Mrs. Sybil Chester, Ms. Anita Jaikaran, Mr. Rudy Carrly, Dr. Shamir Ally

The conference will create a synergy between stakeholders who impact business investments, commerce, trade and economic development in Guyana, and overseas-based Guyanese entrepreneurs as well as foreign businesses and corporations that find Guyana attractive for profitable business investments.

The conference is to market Guyana as fertile for investments and highlight key policies of the new government that make investment in Guyana simple, feasible and profitable. It will delineate the processes for application and approval of business permits and licenses, the acquisition of land titles and leases, concessions on taxes and duties, labor force and regulations, access to resources, capital etc., which are relevant for the establishment of a business venture.

The focus should be investments in key sectors of the economy; including financial services and banking, agri-business, manufacturing, exploration, energy, technology, eco-tourism and human resource and services.
Corporations/investors to be targeted include airlines corporations, Home Depot and other companies that operate large all customer service centers, eco-tourism operators, pharmaceutical manufactures, electronics and appliances manufactures, footwear and clothing designers, etc. We must sell Guyana as an emerging business-hub through which markets in the Caribbean and Latin and South America can be accessed.

The conference will foster transformation of the government and private sector businesses through the application of modern technology to effectively link Guyana to the rest of the world; modernize business operations as well as make business investments and transactions in Guyana seamless, effortless and less bureaucratic.

The forum will provide a platform for communication, collaborations and networking between Government of Guyana (GOG), private sectors leaders and investors in the United States. The committee can also look at whether it wishes to expand role of the forum to include exports markets for Guyanese products or remain within the remit of highlighting business opportunities in Guyana.

The venue will be a prestigious location in Manhattan suitable for attracting target investors and business leaders. It was recommended that the committee asks Guyana’s Ambassador in Washington DC to request the US Department of Treasury to use the auditorium and rotunda in the Alexander Hamilton Court House/Treasury Building on Wall Street. If not, the committee will consider securing a hotel or other venue in Manhattan.

The structure of the forum may include an opening address by the President or Prime Minister, followed by presentations by the Ministers of government and the private sector leaders in an assembly format or breakout sessions. A wrap-up, networking cocktail reception with a conclusionary address can culminate the conference.

The primary outcome should be the creation of new business investment opportunities in Guyana. The GOG must designate or appoint an official to follow up and execute agreements and action items from the forum.
Guyana Gives Back

Day Of Volunteerism

“Promoting our Value of Community”

Wednesday, June 7, 2016.
Venues: Designated Centers in New York City
Chair: Dr. Janice Emmanuel. Co-Chairs Dr. Stephen Carryl, Dr. Rohan Somar, Attorney Cheddi Jagan, II, Dr. Jacqueline Gulstone and Attorney Rovin Rozario.

The mission of “Guyana Gives Back – A day of Volunteerism” is to mobilize Guyanese professionals to give back to the community through various forms of volunteerism.

Medical: The committee proposes to invite Guyanese physicians, nurses, physician’s assistants, dentists, dietitians, nutritionists, patient care technicians, mental health and other counselors and other healthcare professionals, to manage a full-fledged, walk-in medical clinic at an established medical institution in Brooklyn.

Legal: Simultaneously, Guyanese Attorneys City-wide to provide free immigration and other legal services at their own offices and/or at specially designated locations for nationals and others who desire such service.

Other: Social workers, financial advisers, real estate brokers, housing specialists and other participating professionals will all be invited to do the same.

Meals: The committee also intends to arrange for meals to be delivered and/or shared to senior citizens, residents of shelters, Police Precincts, Fire stations, etc. All of this will add to the magnificence of the entire week of commemoration.
United Nations Cocktail Reception

“Demonstrating Strength In The International Community”

Wednesday June 8, 2016 (Evening)
United Nations Headquarters, Manhattan
Chair: Ambassador George Talbot. Co-Chair: Ms. Lourdeth Ferguson, Ms. Claire Goring

Guyana’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the 50th Independence Anniversary Committee will host a Cocktail Reception at the United Nations to Commemorate Guyana’s 50th Year of Membership.

The Secretary General of the United Nations and the Prime Minister of Guyana will be invited to attend.

The program will include toasts, speeches, musical entertainment, drama, poetry, Steel orchestra and performances.
Flag Raising Ceremony
“Displaying unflagging Patriotism”

Thursday, June 9, 2016
Venue: Paul Robeson Stadium - East Orange, New Jersey
Chair: Ms. Sandra Harte. Co-Chairs: Mr. Bryan Benn, Ms. Ira Lewis

The Flag Raising ceremony to commemorate the 50th Independence of the Republic of Guyana will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at the Paul Robeson Stadium, City of East Orange, NJ.

The sub-committee is currently finalizing the logistics for this event. We hope to attract more than 5,000 Guyanese and friends from across the Tri-State area to witness the raising of the flag to replicate the similar manner in which it was raised 49 years ago, when the Union Jack was lowered and the Golden Arrowhead was hoisted. The ceremony will include speeches, musical renditions, drama and the hoisting of a twenty-foot flag.
Cultural Extravaganza

“Showcasing Our Rich Cultural Heritage”

Friday, June 10, 2016
Venue: Prospect High School Performing Arts Center (Proposed)
Chair: Mrs. Rose October-Edun. Co-Chair: Mr. Malcolm Hall

“Amazing Guyana: A Jubilee Celebration”

Vision: To celebrate Guyana’s Jubilee Independence Anniversary through culture by showcasing artistes in the diaspora

Objectives:
- To celebrate Guyana’s 50th Independence Anniversary by showcasing the talent of Guyanese performing artists
- To represent our motto: One People, One Nation, One Destiny
- To unify Guyanese through cultural expressions such as music, dance, poetry, and fashion that exemplify a Jubilee Celebration.

Concept: The Cultural Extravaganza embraces the idea of a myriad of cultural genres which will demonstrate music, dance, poetry, video and art of the Nation. This is all linked together by tight narration in the form of storytelling and focuses on several different periods to include pre-independence, leading up to independence (period of resistance) and post-independence. The production will seek to inform those less informed of our rich cultural heritage of the various developments of religious life and subcultures which played a critical role in the determination of what is amazing about Guyana.

The production will feature individual Artistes and groups from the Diaspora, particularly those involved in the performing arts and multimedia arts. Within the committee a small task force will be charged with the development of the script and to elect a Director who will oversee the direction of the production. In an effort to have a quality production and to demonstrate the various music styles, a variety of musicians will be selected to form a combo for the evening. Dancers, singers and poets will be invited to an open cast call for selection. Those outside of the Tri state area will be included by submitting their work following a call for submission.
President’s Cup Soccer Tournament & Youth Fun Day
“Developing Our Youth Through Sport”

Saturday June 11, 2016 11am to 6pm
Venue: South Shore High School Park, Brooklyn
Chair: Mr. Omotola Goulding. Co-Chairs: Ms. Joycelyn Smith, Mr. Jason Waldron

Vision: The soccer tournament is intended to unite all regions of Guyana as well as showcase young, talented Guyanese soccer players in the USA, and provide a fun-filled day of interactive carnival activities for children and families, while feasting on traditional Guyanese delicacies.

Re. President’s Cup Soccer Tournament
The President’s Cup Soccer Tournament Segment will consist of 4 exhibition soccer games, featuring Guyana’s emerging talent from junior high, high school and college players as well as former and current international players. These games will represent six regions (East Coast, West Coast, Berbice, Bartica, Linden, and Georgetown). Each team will be outfitted with uniforms which will be color coordinated with the region’s color. A tent will be on site to provide each player with complimentary meal and refreshment after their respective game. Former MSL superstar and former captain of DC United, Dwayne De Rosario was invited to make a guest appearance in his quest to rekindle his Guyanese roots.
Youth Fun Day
The Youth Fun Day segment will consist of various carnival activities, entertainment and fun games, mirroring the Guymine games for children, young adults, and families to participate.

The venue selected for this event is South Shore High School located in district 8th of Canarsie, Brooklyn. The availability of the venue was confirmed and the required paper work will be submitted shortly after the event budget is approved. There will be multiple vendors on site providing various Guyanese food and beverages. There will be a face painting artist and fun prizes for children of all age.

Memorabilia will be available for purchase and presentation to players as a token of our appreciation. Everyone’s safety is our number one priority and the appropriate steps will be taken to enforce all safety measures.

The necessary arrangements will be made for FDNY to be present at the event in case of any unpredictable emergency. This event is expected to attract approximately twenty five hundred fellow Guyanese. This event can also be used to inform people of various education, medical, and immigration opportunities available in the New York metropolitan area.

A DJ will provide entertainment for the event.
The State Dinner

“Honoring Our Head of State”

Saturday, June 11, 2016
Venue: 583 Park Ave New York, NY
Chair: Ms. Lourdeth Feguson. Co-Chairs: Mr. Rickford Burke, Ms. Claire Goring, Mrs. Sybil Chester

The State Dinner: is in honor of the head of State of the Republic of Guyana, H.E Brigadier David A. Granger; in celebration of Guyana’s Golden Jubilee Independence Anniversary, and to honor outstanding Guyanese in the United States for their sterling contributions to the development of our nation and enhancement of the Guyanese Diaspora.

The program will include presentation of National Awards from the Orders of Guyana by the President as well as various categories of other prestigious awards by the Committee. The President will be presented with “The Democracy Prize” by the Caribbean Guyana Institute for democracy. This honor is bestowed on World Leaders who uphold the ideals of a democratic society.

This will be a formal black or white tie affair, with a four course meal. The Program will include toasts, speeches, musical and other forms of entertainment, poetry, drama artistry and dancing. All rules of protocol for state dinners will apply.

The Committee proposes to cater for eight hundred attendees; including government of Guyana officials, United States Federal, State and City officials, Caricom Diplomats as well as Guyanese business and professionals leaders and other nationals. The Committee also proposes to invite a member of the Royal family of Queen Elizabeth of England.

The venue will be prestigious and befitting the occasion. Considerations include Steiner Studios, Brooklyn; The Brooklyn Museum and Brooklyn Marriot, Brooklyn; Terrace on the Park, Flushing, Queens; Russo’s on the Bay, Howard Beach, Queens as well as the Manhattan Hilton and Hyatt Hotels. The cost will be approximately $300.00 per person and $3,500.00 per table.
Mashramani In New York
“Celebration After Hard Work building A Nation”

Date: Sunday, June 12, 2016
Venue: Church Ave to Ralph Ave to Flatlands Ave, Brooklyn
Chair: Mr. Rickford Burke. Co-Chairs: Mr. Jack Bharat, Mr. Sean London, Mr. Jason Waldron, Attorney Cheddie Jagan, Il, Ms. Brenda Hooper-Marshall, Mr. James Richmond, Ms. Lakshmee Singh

Mashramani in New York” affords the Guyanese diaspora an opportunity to, in typical “Mash” carnival-like atmosphere, come together to celebrate our nation’s golden jubilee Independence anniversary with costume band parade, masqueraders and a sea of Guyanese nationals displaying renewed national pride, patriotism and national unity in artistic and cultural splendor. Mashramani - an Amerindian word which means “celebration after hard work,” will live out its true meaning in New York with “Mashramani in New York” depicting various aspects of our culture and stages of our national journey under the theme “Celebrating 50 Years Of Nation Building.”

The Parade:
The Parade will comprise marching bands, floats of various sizes, masqueraders in costumes choreographed to depict various themes that reflect our nation’s rich cultural heritage, vast natural resources – like El Dorado – as well as its natural beauty.

The Mashramani will commence with a march led by committee members, government of Guyana officials, U.S federal, state and city officials. Costume bands with their marvelous floats and colorful, energetic masqueraders, interspaced with large, wrapped music trucks, will follow.
Nationals will be organized in T-Shirt and costume band formations representing the three geographical counties of Guyana: Berbice, Essequibo and Demerara to give the Parade a Labor Day feeling.

**Parade Route**
The parade will commence at the intersection of church and Bedford Avenue, proceed East along Church Avenue, South into Ralph Avenue and East into Flatlands Avenue into South Shore High School Park, for a grand rally to be addressed by H.E President David Granger.

**The Rally:**
The Rally will commence around 4:00 p.m. and is expected to attract approximately 25,000 nationals. The program will include musical entertainment by several Guyanese celebrities enlisted in the celebration advertising campaign. These may include Fabulous, Shawn Patrick Thomas, Debra Cox, CCH Pounder, Natural Black, etc.
Protocol, Invitations, Journal & Souvenirs

Co-Chairs: Mrs. Claire Patterson-Mona, Mr. Standhope Williams

This sub-committee is tasked with the following important responsibilities of the celebration. These responsibilities are strategically formatted and structured to maintain control, cohesion and financial accountability:

(I) Design, printing and issuance of all invitations and tickets: The sub-committee will be responsible for the design, printing and issuance of all invitations and/or tickets for all of the commemorative events. The sub-committee shall ensure that all tickets and invitations are properly bar-coded and designed with impenetrable security features and take all possible measures to prevent counterfeit and scams. This is to facilitate easy tracking for proper accountability.

(II) Protocol: In order to ensure conformity to protocol, cohesion, seamless coordination, tracking of VIPs and to arrange appropriate seating and accommodation, all VIP invitations will be issued solely and expressly by this sub-committee. Committee members as well as all event sub-committees are required to submit all VIP guest lists for issuances of invitations, passes and/tickets.

(III) Identification and Security Passes:
All security/identification passes for the celebration shall, without exception, be issued by this sub-committee.

(IV) Commemorative Journal:
The sub-committee shall be responsible for the content, design, printing, publication, sale and all other matters relating to the Commemorative Journal.

(V) Memorabilia and Souvenirs: The sale of all memorabilia, souvenirs and other celebration merchandise shall be explicitly within the purview of this sub-committee.

(VI) Door/Gate Entrance Receipts: This sub-committee is solely responsible for the door or gate receipts (entrance fees) for all paid events of the celebrations and shall coordinate administration of all fee collection with the relevant events sub-committees. The sub-committee shall design and/or implement any and all process, measures and systems it deems necessary for the efficient execution of its mandate.
Commemorative Journal

1. **Overview**
The Guyana Golden Jubilee Journal shall be a high quality souvenir publication that will serve as a 50th Independence Anniversary Collectible item. The Journal shall be accompanied by a Souvenir Golden Jubilee Limited Edition Commemorative Coin Set which will complement the publication and also serve as a collectible item.

2. **Cover Design**
There shall be two Editions of the Journal: One Limited Edition Hard Cover with Jacket; and one Unlimited Soft cover edition. The cover shall be stately – (not too busy) with the dominant color being green which shall represent the main thrust of a “Green Capital City and a green Guyana”. The centerpiece of the cover will feature an image of the 50th Independence Anniversary Gold Coin with the main text written in gold, “Guyana - The Golden Years 1966 - 2016” and sub-text, “Commemorating the Fiftieth Independence Anniversary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.”

3. **Commemorative Gold Coin Set**
The Golden Jubilee Limited Edition Commemorative Gold Coin Set shall contain a series of three coins in a beautiful gift box. The gift box shall contain a certificate of Authenticity and will serve as a stand-alone gift item that can be sold at affordable prices.

4. **Sponsorship**
There shall be Six Levels of Sponsorship as follows:

   a) **Platinum - $5,000**
   Full Page Full Color Ad on the front inside cover or back inside cover.
   1 Table for 10 persons at Independence Anniversary Gala/State Dinner
   2 Commemorative Gold Coin Set

   b) **Diamond - $3,000**
   Full Page Full Color Ad inside the Journal
   5 Tickets to Independence Anniversary Gala/State Dinner
   1 Commemorative Gold Coin Set
c) **Gold - $2,000**
Half Page Ad
2 Tickets to Independence Anniversary Gala/State Dinner

d) **Silver - $1,000**
Quarter Page Ad.
2 tickets to Independence Anniversary Gala/State Dinner

e) **Bronze - $500**
⅛ Page Ad plus
1 Ticket to Independence Anniversary Gala/State Dinner

5. **Contents of Journal**

The Journal shall comprise eight main sections. Each section shall feature a Patron who may be asked to contribute to the section.

1. **Our Story**
   (a) Historical Perspectives acknowledging our Dutch, French and British influences. **Proposed Patron for History: Professor Dr. Ivelaw Griffith**
   (b) History and contribution of Guyanese to the US. **Proposed Patron of History: Professor Dr. Vibert Cambridge.**

2. **Bamboo Fire**
Perspectives on Arts and Culture highlighting the development of Folk Songs, Calypso, National songs, the Theatre Guild, Cultural center, National School of Dance, Burrowes School of Art, Artists & Sculptors etc. **Proposed Patron for the Arts: Dr. Vibart Cambridge**

3. **Our Education**
Perspective on the development of education in Guyana which will focus on our schools, colleges and University and highlight our scholars and achievers. **Proposed Patron for Education: Professor Nigel E. Harris**

4. **Cacique Crown**
Perspectives on Fashion in Guyana focusing on ethnic influences i.e. Amerindian wear, European, African, East Indian, Chinese and Portuguese wear.  
**Propose Patron for Fashion: Mr. Walter Green**

5. **Cook-Up**
Perspectives on Guyanese food; A mini cook-book section featuring recipes submitted by Guyanese Restaurants in New York, e.g.
   - Sybil’s Pepper Pot
   - Lynda’s Cook up
   - Bamboo Garden’s Fried Rice
6. Our Faith
Perspective on Religion in Guyana. This section shall highlight all religious influences in Guyana including aspects of Cumfa (African), Kali Mai (East Indian), the Hallelujah religion (Amerindian), the Bahai Faith and Rastafarianism. Three Patrons shall represent the three main religions in Guyana:
- Proposed Christian Patron: Bishop John Cummings
- Proposed Muslim Patron…..
- Proposed Hindu Patron – Pandit Ramlall

7. Half-Time
Perspectives on Sports. This section is given the sports title ‘Half-Time’ as a nod to our half-century Independence milestone. It shall highlight our distinct cricketing legacy as well as our achievements in all other sports disciplines. Proposed Patron for Sports: Mr. Clive Lloyd

8. Our Future
Perspectives on a 21st Century Guyana…its potential as a Petroleum Producing/Exporting Country …the Singapore of the Caribbean. President David Granger

9. Other Contents
The main contents of the Journal shall be interspersed with several other items as follows:

10. Messages & Proclamations:

a) Messages from the President and other Guyana Government officials.
b) Messages from the President and other United States Government officials.
c) Messages from the British Monarchy as well as the Government of the United Kingdom
d) Proclamations from various United States Federal, State, City and Borough Officials.

11. Poems, Proverbs & Publications
a) Poem by National Poets
   - Martin Carter
   - A. J. Seymour
   - Wordsworth Mc Andrew and others
A wide variety of Proverbs and their meanings.

b) **The Golden Jubilee Collection**: Great Guyanese Books by Internationally acclaimed and other famous Guyanese Writers:

- To Sir With Love – E.R. Braithwaite
- They came Before Columbus – Professor Ivan Van Sertima
- How Europe Underdeveloped Africa – Dr. Walter Rodney
- A Destiny To Mould – Forbes Burnham
- The West on Trial – Dr. Cheddi Jagan
- A Short History of the Guyanese People – Vere T. Daly
- The Guyana Quartet – Wilson Harris
- I is a long Memoried Woman – Grace Nichols
- The Ventriloquists Tale - Pauline Melville
- Coolie Woman - Gaiutra Bahadur

**The Golden Jubilee Collection**
12. Did You Know?

- This feature of the journal shall highlight little known but fascinating facts about Guyana.

This section will also allow for highlighting other significant information about Guyana in areas such as:

a) Science & Technology
b) Health
c) Flora /Fauna
d) The Environment
e) Trade & Commerce etc.

13. Trivia

There shall be ‘Jeopardy’ style questions on Guyana with answers provided towards the end of the Journal.
Chair: Mr. Nevlon Duguid, Co-Chair: Ms. Janice Hall

**Mission:** This PR committee is responsible for taking the vision of the grand 50th Independence Anniversary extravaganza to the diaspora and the world!

**Objectives:**

**Positioning/Branding:** Our model is designed to strategically position the New York celebration as the preeminent “Brand” and authentic source of 50th Independence merchandise in North America.

**Information Dissemination and Marketing:**
The committee will conduct an amazing, robust advertising and information dissemination campaign about the celebration, and simultaneously market the celebration and direct benefits to be derived by businesses and individuals. Apart from traditional means of disseminating information to the diaspora, the committee will strategically develop a core audience/clientele base to which there will be a continuous flow of information. This target group would include journalist, opinion makers, bloggers, news outlets, promoters, etc. This audience will be kept informed, engaged and motivated to generate chatter, intensity and hype about the celebration; thereby creating a movement surrounding the 50th celebration.

**Engaging the Diaspora and Creating/Raise Awareness:**
The committee will utilize various information sharing vehicles and platform to create and/or raise awareness of the designation of “celebration week,” which is the week of the commemorative events. The promotion of “celebration week” will coincide with advertising campaigns. The twinning of the two promotions is designed to create a double-barreled effect to induce retention as well as a strong recognition of our New York celebration brand.
Advertising Campaign And Promotion:
The committee will mount an unprecedented, multilevel promotion to maintain a high level of interest and intensity about the celebration. The promotion will include traditional newspaper, radio and television ads, social media blitz, billboards, signs, banners, posters, flyers and hand bills, palm cards, neonetics signs, instant location and easy texting and email newsletters, as well as newspaper editorials and articles.

The committee will establish a platform for the continuous flow of information to the keep Diaspora fully apprised, involved and engaged in the commemorative activities and events planning and execution. It will continually reach out to every Guyanese organization, religious congregation, civil society and community groups, and every Guyanese across America.

The intent is to flood the diaspora with the message of the celebration to maintain top-of-mind awareness, generate positive sentiments and reactions and build momentum for unprecedented participation.

Website:
The Committee’s website: www.celebrateguyana50thinyc.com, will launch simultaneously with the commemoration on January 16, 2016. The website will be an interchange for the sharing of information, ideas, opinions and multimedia presentations. It will catalog all events and 50th Independence celebration activities in New York, Guyana and other locations in a specially designated “Independence Village.”

The site will include an “Events’ Calendar” which will be the primary source for information on each commemorative event. Each event will have its own marketing banner on the home page that will link to specific individual event webpages within the site. A “Document Center” with instructions for downloadable applications for vendor registration, event vending, parking and concession permits and press accreditation, will be a prominent feature. A sponsorship and donation center as well as a media center will also make for effortless navigation through the webpage.

Nationals throughout the Diaspora in the US will be invited to register on the website for instant communication. Guyanese professionals will also be invited to register their professions to allow us to map our human resource skill sets and create a Guyanese-American Resource Pool (GARP). The registration process will include identification of nationals' native villages and towns in Guyana to facilitate interactive town and village communities within a global Guyanese village in the site. The Committee’s objective is to register over 100,000.00 between December 2015 and May 2016.
Marketplace: The website will be the primary marketplace to purchase the memorabilia, souvenirs and tickets for commemorative event.

(i) Be linked to a full e-commerce platform in order to sell all of our promotional items from pins to t-shirts.
(ii) Facilitate registration portal to create an attendee list for each event, and
(iii) Facilitate donations and contributions to the committee. Graphics and video will be sharable from our sites platform to all social media account allowing everyone involved to promote the celebration.
(iv) Each event will be streamed live via the website. Events will also be videotaped and photographed

Marketing Of Commemorative Events:

Radio and TV Ads
Rollup Banner displays
Billboards
Direct Mailings
12x17 Posters
4x6 postcards 3’x10’ vinyl banners
Event Invitations
Light Pole Banner Brackets
Lapel Pins and Badges for members and Volunteers

Promotion of all events: A launch video designed to capture the interest of sponsors and donors will be produced to highlight each event and its value to our heritage. This promotion will include:

Logo animation
Script writing
Location selection
Video shoot
Animation of graphics
Souvenirs & Memorabilia

The Committee will be the sole merchant for the following souvenirs and memorabilia:
Fundraising

The Mission of the Fundraising Sub-Committee is to ensure that the Committee’s total expenses of $804,000.00 is adequately financed. In particular, this sub-committee is responsible for acquiring all funds needed to finance non-revenue generating events of the celebration. All revenues generated by the Committee will be deposited into the treasury. Each sub-committee budget, upon approval by the Planning Committee, will be funded by the treasury. Sub-committees may also engage in fund raising ventures with the express consent and guidance of the fundraising committee; provided that all funds derived therefrom must be submitted to the Treasurer of the 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York). The Treasurer, in consultation with the Chartered Accountant who shall be the Auditor for the Committee, shall be responsible for the compilation and submission of the Committee’s Statement of Accounts to the attorney General of Guyana in accordance with New York State law. The fundraising committee comprises two teams. Team A: Corporate sponsorship and solicitations.

Sponsorship: There'll be four levels of sponsorship:

- Principal: $100,000.00 and over
- Major: $50,000.00
- Presenting: $30,000.00
- Supporting: $20,000.00

This team will be responsible for lobbying corporations in the United States and Guyana for sponsorships. A list of corporations, company's and small businesses will be developed and proposition for sponsorship of the celebration.

Solicitations: Team A: Will also solicit donations from not for profit organizations and individuals. The team will compile a list of organizations and individuals who will be invited to contribute monetarily to the celebration. This will include the limited “VIP Advance” – for exclusive all-event access.

Team B: will be responsible for hosting special events such as receptions, parties, raffles, etc to raise funds. The team will host or invite members of the Diaspora to host these special events and submits the returns to the treasury.
The New York Launch

Saturday, January 16, 2015 at 6:00 P.M
Historic Jamaica Performing Arts Center
153-10 Jamaica Ave, Queens. New York, 11432
Launch: The New York City celebration will launch on January 16, 2015, at the 153-10 Jamaica Ave, Queens, New York, 11432. This will be the take off of a seven-month commemoration voyage, and as an amazing, broad-spectrum public relations and social media campaign to create awareness and inspire unprecedented participation in the 2016 celebration. The climatic landing will be in June 2016 with a spectacular golden jubilee celebration. It will be the greatest show Guyanese have never seen.

This miniature encapsulation of the breath-taking nine-event celebration will be intricately designed to illustrate the synergies of Guyana’s holistic journey from independence to its contemporary society. Choreographed to portrayal our illustrious history and rich cultures, the design portend a glorious future of unity and modernity. Enriched with the theme “Reflect the Journey,” the launch will promulgate the virtues our celebration brand while imbuing Guyanese with an indelible sense of identity and national pride.

Indeed, this harbinger will generate consuming intensity and ignite an infectious explosion of culture, history and national pride that will set the stage for the greatest celebration Guyanese have ever seen!

The Committee has invited the Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, Prime Minister of Guyana Minister, to launch the New York Celebration.

Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.
Prime Minister of Guyana
50th Anniversary Of The Independence of the Republic Of Guyana
New York City
June 4 – 12, 2016

The Greatest Celebration Guyanese Have Ever Seen!

50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York)
308 W 38th St, New York, NY 10018.
Tel: 212-947-5115. Fax: 646-915-0237. Email: guyanaconsulate@hotmail.com

www.celebrateguyana50thinnyc.com

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