



NEWSLETTER

Feb 2013

The Queen's College of Guyana Association (UK)
(Registered Charity No. 801250)

No. 46

Mashramani Greetings!



SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

Members are reminded that subscriptions (£12; £5 for full-time students) fell due on 1st October last.



UK taxpayers are kindly requested to pay their subscriptions by Gift Aid as this increases the payment to the Association by just over 28%. Life membership can be had for a single payment of £100, or four annual payments of £30 by Gift Aid. (Contact Ian Wishart for details - see last page)

AGM HIGHLIGHTS

The attendance at the AGM was once again disappointingly low, with only 19 members and one guest (equalling last year's total of 17 members and three guests). This out of a total of just over 100 members resident in the UK.

OFFICERS FOR 2012–13

Neville Linton was once again returned unopposed as President, and existing Vice-Presidents **John Rafferty**, **Lloyd Bascom**, **David Man**, **Sir Shridath ('Sonny') Ramphal**, **Trevor Phillips**, **Henry Edwards**, **Derek Hugh**, **Ivor Ying** and **Gary Ramprashad** reappointed. (The foregoing appointments are all non-executive.)

The seven members of the Management Committee (all returned unopposed) are: **Ian Wishart**, **Mark Dalgety**, **Rod Westmaas**, **Praveen Hanoman**, **Mark Adamson** and **Leila Persaud** (Claire Carballo, Chris Chunnillall and Bruce Nóbrega stood down under the three-year rule.) At the first Committee meeting on 23rd November, **Mark Dalgety**, **Rod Westmaas** and **Praveen Hanoman** were respectively returned unopposed as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, whilst **Chris Chunnillall**, **Ruth-Anne Lynch**, **Claire Carballo** and **Bruce Nóbrega** were co-opted (see last page for contact details).

DONATIONS RECEIVED AND DISBURSEMENTS

The special appeal to life members of ten or more years standing raised a final total of £1825 from direct donations. A further £400 has been/will be recovered from HMRC from those donations that were gift-aided.

£1000 were disbursed to QCOSA for the "Special Awardees Programme" (see Constitutional Amendments below) during the 2011–12 financial year. School ties to the value of £2062 were shipped to QCOSA in October. The ties will be sold to the students, and the proceeds used to fund the Special Awardees Programme.

EVENTS

Overall, events organised by the Association made a profit of £1466. This included a profit of £376 on the Family Barbecue (formerly Summer Reunion) and a loss of £118 on the Carnival Fête. Our thanks once again to those non-members who helped at the Family Barbecue: Kamini Hanoman, Juanita Westmaas, Peter and Anthony Wishart, Shirley and Sharon Ying, and foodstall caterer Beverley Headley who donated saltfish and bakes.

The 2012 Annual Dinner (not included in the 2011–12 accounts) made a profit of £323 (£401 last year); 44 persons attended (57 last year).

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the Association's constitution proposed by the Committee (and circulated to members) were approved *nem. con.* The main amendment, which had to be approved by The Charity Commission, was to extend the charitable object to include support for needy students. As you may know, the Guyana Association funds a "Special Awardees Programme" supporting needy students primarily with lunch and textbooks (which still have to be paid for although education itself is free). We have been supporting the programme, and the constitutional amendment regularises the position. The other main amendment covers the appointment of Trustees of the charity. Our original constitution did not mention trustees, The Charity Commission therefore considered the elected members of the Management committee as the Trustees. The new clause explicitly states this, and also provides for the appointment of additional Trustees by the Management Committee (as permitted by Charity Commission guidelines). Other changes are principally a "tidying up" exercise: re-numbering clauses due to the insertion of the new "trustees" clause, extending the date by which the AGM must be held to end November (was 15th), recognising the advent of email as a medium of communication, etc. (The amended constitution is on our website, qcoga.org.uk.)

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

There has been a progressive decline, over the past few years, in the profits derived from fund-raising events. As reported above, the appeal to life members of ten plus years standing was reasonably successful. However, if we are to maintain our support for our alma mater – our charitable object – then we must increase our funds. At the last AGM it was suggested that an appeal for additional funds be made to all members; this met with the meeting's approval. For UK taxpayers, gift-aiding your donation will increase its value by 25% courtesy of HMRC.

ASSOCIATION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The events planned for our "silver jubilee" are:

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Friday 11th October: | Cultural Evening at Kensington Library followed by a Reception |
| Saturday 12th October: | Dinner-Dance jointly with BHS Association (venue to be announced) |
| Sunday 13th October: | Annual Business Meeting for Association members and overseas delegates at Eversheds LLP in the City, with lunch . |

SALVETE

We welcome **Ruth-Anne Lynch** (QC 1978–84) as a new member. **Michael Sharples** has converted to life membership.

VALETE

We regret to announce the deaths of: **Rupert Annamunthodo** who died in Canada in October; **Aubrey Fitz Ronald Bishop**, OR, CCH (QC 1943–50), former Chancellor of the Judiciary and QC Old Student's Association President, *d.* 6.2.13 age 81 in Georgetown (see obituary below); **Hugh Neville James Cholmondeley** (QC 1951–58) *b.* 13.4.40, *d.* 10.8.12 in New York (see obituary

below); **Edwin Fredericks** died in Guyana c. October (no other information); **Henry Greene** (QC 1965–?), QC junior table-tennis champion 1967, former Commissioner of Police, *d.* 7.9.12 age 58 in a motor accident in Guyana; **Aubrey Husbands** (QC 1950s), *b.* 30.4.42, *d.* 9.2.13 in Guyana; **Michael Julius Isaacs** (QC 1948–55), *Life Member*, *b.* 11.10.38, *d.* 9.10.12, his funeral on 2.11.12 was attended by several alumni, *Carmen Collegii Reginae* was sung; **Laurence Walter Keates** (Master 1955–58), *Life Member*, *d.* 27.5.12; **Laurie Leyland Lewis** ('Trinculo'), QC 1952/3–61), former Commissioner of Police, President QC Old Students' Association and President QC Board of Governors, *d.* 13.8.12 age 71 in Guyana; **Ronald Roderick ('Peter') McKenzie** (QC 1950–58), *Member*, *b.* 9.12.40, *d.* 19.7.12, his funeral on 30.7.12 was attended by 13 alumni (all Association members) at which, once again, *Carmen Collegii Reginae* was sung; **Loris Oswald Richards** (QC 1951–c.58), *d.* 21.10.12 in Guyana; Dr **Richard L Sahai** (QC 194?–1950), *d.* 5.8.12 age 80 in Long Island, NY (see obituary below); **Gregory Sills** (QC 1966–71), *d.* 4.7.12 in Guyana; **O'Neill Sinclair** (QC 1951–56), *d.* 4.1.13 in Mississauga, Ontario; **Lawrence Howard Stewart** (QC 1970–74), *Life Member* and former Committee Member, *b.* 8.6.57, *d.* 15.1.13 (see obituary below), his funeral on 25.1.13 was attended by several alumni, *Carmen Collegii Reginae* was sung; **Ralph Percival Veacock** (QC 1933–40), *d.* 17.12.12 in Toronto in his 90th year (Ralph's grandfather James Veacock came out from England in 1861 as deputy to headmaster Percival); **Martin Borrett Austin Wickham** (QC 1951–c.59), *b.* 6.3.1942, *d.* 16.11.12 in Ottawa, great-great-great nephew of QC's founder Bishop Austin, under 13 athletics champion 1955, twice BG junior tennis champion, member of the Board of Directors of the English-Speaking Union of Canada and past President of the Ottawa Branch, active member of the Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada; a tribute was delivered at his memorial service by Bobby Moore, former QC master and former Guyana High Commissioner in Canada.

To the bereaved relatives the Association extends its sincerest condolences.

The Association also extends its sympathy to the family of the late Dr **Edward Emmanuel ('Eddie') Adams** who died on 25th October age 86. A prominent member of the Guyanese community in London, Eddie was a leading light in several Guyanese associations, particularly those connected with health. He was a supporter of many of our own fund-raising events. St Margaret the Queen Church in Streatham was packed to overflowing at his funeral service on 5th November.

OBITUARIES

AUBREY FITZ RONALD BISHOP, OR, CCH, LLM, BSc

Aubrey Bishop was born in Georgetown, and attended Queen's College from 1943 to 1950. There he excelled academically and also in football and cricket, being in the school's 1st XI in both sports. He was a member of that renowned cricket team, captained by Arnold Gibbons and including Leroy Jackman and Cecil "Bones" Pilgrim (the first President of this Association), that was narrowly beaten by the GCC in the 1951 Case Cup competition – the top league in the country.

Aubrey decided to pursue a legal career, and on completion of his studies in the UK he was called to the English bar in 1963. On his return to Guyana, he undertook both criminal and civil cases, and in 1976 was appointed a High Court Judge. Promotions, to the Court of Appeal (1987) and Chief Justice (1992), culminated in the top judicial appointment as Chancellor of the Judiciary in 1996. In his judicial role he was honoured with Guyana's third and second highest honours: Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH) and, in 1996, the Order of Roraima (OR). Following his retirement from the judiciary, Aubrey was appointed Professor of Law at the University of Guyana. Additionally, he served on the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

In his younger days, Aubrey had twice represented BG at inter-colonial cricket. He was subsequently President of the Guyana Football Association, and a qualified FIFA football referee. He also sat on the World Court of Arbitration for Sport.

On a visit to the UK in 1987 when he was President of the Guyana Old Students' Association (QCOSA), Aubrey addressed a group of former QC students on the problems then afflicting the school. As a result, (Vice-President and immediate past President) John Rafferty organised a meeting at the Guyana High Commission to which all contactable former QC students in the UK were invited. This was to lead to the formation of the present Association which celebrates its silver jubilee this year. Aubrey was the motivator!

Aubrey is survived by his widow, Dr Carol Bishop, and three (adult) children.

Ian Wishart

HUGH NEVILLE JOHN CHOLMONDELEY

Hugh was born on 13th April 1940 and began life in Bagotville, West Bank Demerara, where his father was a teacher, subsequently moving to Port Mourant, Berbice, when his father became head-teacher of the local Anglican school. In 1950 the family moved to Georgetown, and the next year Hugh entered Queen's College, the first year in the "new" (and present) building in the last few months of Howard Nobbs's regime.

Leaving Queen's in 1958, Hugh secured employment as an announcer at the BG Broadcasting Service. He moved to Radio Demerara in 1966 as Director of News and Current Affairs. In 1968 Hugh became the first General Manager of the newly established Guyana Broadcasting Service (GBS).

In that role he established a team of outstanding broadcasters who would extend the boundaries of radio beyond mere entertainment into debate on national issues, investigative journalism, documentaries, and live coverage of national events. His "Action Line", a live call-in programme, became the bane of many politicians as people raised issues that affected their lives in a public discourse that the authorities could not ignore.

Grappling with the political issues of the post-independence period was a difficult task. GBS was government-owned, but recognising that it should not be government-controlled, Hugh established its financial independence by attracting advertising. He also tried to establish a balance in the station's political coverage by initiating programmes such as live interviews with the then Prime Minister Forbes Burnham and Opposition Leader Cheddi Jagan.

Hugh had helped to establish the Caribbean Broadcasting Union. In 1972 he was appointed a UNESCO project manager in which capacity he established the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), and the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communications at UWI Mona. After a spell with UNESCO in Paris, Hugh returned to Jamaica in 1979 as UNESCO's Caribbean representative. He subsequently switched to UNDP, remaining in Jamaica and coordinating relief and rehabilitation efforts when hurricane Gilbert struck in 1988. When UNDP wanted to transfer him out of Jamaica, PM Seaga ensured his retention by refusing to accept nominated replacements. In 1991 UNDP appointed him chief of their Caribbean division with responsibilities for both the Caribbean and Latin America. Subsequent appointments were to UN missions to Somalia (donning bullet-proof jacket and helmet), Liberia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone.

Always concerned about his native land, Hugh played a role in assisting the three Caribbean negotiators – Sonny Ramphal, Alister McIntyre and Henry Forde – when the Herdmanston Accord was fashioned in 1997–8 to secure a peaceful resolution of the political conflict that followed the 1997 general election in Guyana.

Hugh subsequently "remigrated" to Guyana, where his talents were still in demand: CARICOM chief coordinator of the task force for technical assistance to Haiti (2004) and adviser to the Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission (2006).

Guyana and the Caribbean have lost an outstanding son who will long be remembered by those whose lives he touched.

(Based on a Tribute by Sir Ronald Sanders and a Eulogy by Hugh's son-in-law Nigel Hughes from information provided by his wife Cathy and other members of Hugh's family.)

RICHARD L SAHAI

Dr Richard 'Dick' Sahai passed away in Long Island, NY, on August 6th 2012. He was 80 years old. He attended Queens College from 1942 to 1948. On leaving QC he worked at the Central Medical Laboratory attached to the Public Hospital, Georgetown, where he became a Senior Technologist. He travelled to the UK and graduated as a doctor from the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. He then travelled to the United States where he 'interned' becoming an Emergency Room Physician in the Emergency Department at Glen Cove Community Hospital. He is survived by his wife Wilma, five children and 8 grandchildren.

(We thank his wife Wilma for providing this information).

LAWRENCE HOWARD STEWART

Lawrence was born in Georgetown on 8th June 1957. When he was a baby, the family moved to England, and on their return to Guyana in 1970, Lawrence entered Queen's College. After leaving QC in 1974, Lawrence attended Christ Church School and Mon Repos Agricultural College. He left Guyana in 1979 and pursued engineering in the UK and Canada, and then on his return to the UK from Canada, he retrained as an accountant while working. He gained his formal accounting qualifications in 1986, and later completed a Master's Degree in Management Studies and an MBA. Contrary to the popular stereotype of accountants, Lawrence brought with him a larger than life personality and an ability to put people at ease with his quick wit and ready charm. In 1992 he applied his skills to the Housing sector, where he found his true calling and passion. He worked with a number of organisations and the Internal Audit Association. He rose to the position of CEO at Croydon Peoples Housing Association, managing one of the first black and ethnic minority led housing associations in Croydon. He also used his skills in the wider community, assisting local organisations such as the Merton Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia to complete successful funding applications, he sat as a school governor, and he chaired patient focus groups run by his doctor's surgery. At the time of his death, he worked as a Finance Manager at Bede House Association.

Lawrence was selfless in his dedication to others, and shall be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife Lesley, children Dwayne, Jade and Leah, and mother Hyacinth.

(Adapted from the Eulogy given at his funeral).

THANKS/CONGRATULATIONS TO

QC's **Jonelle James** for the best local performance at CAPE (Caribbean A-levels); she gained five grade 1 passes in Biology, Caribbean Studies, Chemistry, Food & Nutrition and Pure Mathematics;

Members/Life Members **John Dodshon, Neville Linton, David Man, Bruce Nóbrega, David Pollard** and **Fred Weston**, and alumnus **Noël C Bacchus** (of New York) for their donations to the Association;

Life Member Sir **Ronald Sanders** KCMG for being made an Honorary Member of the Order of Australia, "for service to Australian relations particularly concerning Commonwealth issues and advancing the interests of small developing states of the Caribbean region";

QC Alumni Association of South Florida (of which our Secretary Rod Westmaas was a founder member) on their 10th anniversary;

Lakshmi Persaud (taught at QC 1963–64) for receiving, as part of Trinidad & Tobago's 50th independence anniversary celebrations, a lifetime award for significant contribution to the development of literature in that (her native) country. Lakshmi's latest novel, *Daughters of Empire*, was published in September [Peepal Tree Press, paperback £12.99].

THE CAMP STREET FIRE

(From *A Creole Family* by Winifred M (Wishart) Hunter. The fire was opposite the family home where St Margaret's School now stands.)

It is Saturday night – or maybe already Sunday morning – and I am awakened with a start by the anxious voices of my parents. Daddy is saying “Get Wyn up and dressed; we must go downstairs.” Something is wrong! As I rub the sleep from my eyes I am aware of an unusual brightness, and run into the bedroom to see flames coming from the Cregans' house on the other side of the avenue. By the time I get my clothes on the house to the north where Dr. Brown lives is ablaze, and above the roar of the flames through the wooden buildings I can hear the shouts of the firemen attaching the hoses to the hydrants at the road-side and the clanging bells of other fire engines hurrying to the scene of the fire which is spreading rapidly now in both directions. Mr. Wong who runs a hire-car service is moving his cars to safety as the blaze moves towards Murray [Quamina] Street.

We hurry downstairs as the crowd in the avenue retreats from the heat to the other side of Camp Street and spills over into our driveway. Several people are already in our dining room, and I see mother trying to comfort Mrs. Brown whose baby son is missing. I hear someone saying that the nannie who was carrying the baby when they all left the house has disappeared, and the police have been alerted. Poor Mrs Brown is inconsolable. I sit there cold with dread, wondering what will happen. I see Inspector* Charlie Matthey in his khaki uniform, drenched to the skin, shivering and shaking as Daddy pours him a shot of whisky which he gulps down eagerly, and as he hurries back to the fire I note that he is wearing on odd-side white tennis shoe: he must have dressed in the dark. Before long he is back again with the news that the baby is safe; the nannie had run as fast as she could away from the fire until she collapsed at the corner of Lamaha and East Streets, over four blocks away. Mrs. Brown is shedding tears of relief and she is not the only one. I see mother drying her eyes and wonder why mine are wet.

Eventually the fire is brought under control before reaching Belfield House or the shop at the corner of Murray Street. The night of terror is over, but a day of great sorrow dawns for the Gegan family when the body of Mr. Cregan's brother is found. He had returned to the burning building to retrieve his office keys and perished in the blaze.

* In those days the fire brigade was part of the police force, and Inspector a commissioned officer rank (like a present day Superintendent).

MEMORABLE QUOTES


“Many were entranced by the El Dorado syndrome, which has lured Guyanese and others, since the dawn of European colonisation of the region, into flights of fantasy and futility.” – Clem Seecharan, *Mother India's Shadow Over El Dorado: Indo-Guyanese Politics and Identity 1890s–1930s* [Ian Randle Publishers, Kingston, Jamaica]. (Peter Fraser promises a review for the next *Newsletter*.)

“In Paris they simply stared when I spoke to them in French. I never did succeed in making those idiots understand their language.” – Mark Twain, quoted in Stephen Clarke's *1000 Years of Annoying the French* [Black Swan].

ADVERTISEMENT

Member Robert Lalljie has produced two new products that are Guyanese and unique in their own right: Kaie CD, of his mother playing her own compositions, the cost of which is £10, plus £1.99 p+p, and A Bouquet of Guyanese Flowers, edited by Rob, which retails for £9.99 and p+p £1.99. Both are also available in electronic format for those who prefer that format.

Both can be purchased from Robert directly robertlalljie@caribbeanchronicle.com , or from website <http://caribbeanchronicle.com>

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Odyssey of the Demerara River (3. 21) 2. The Water Lily Canal by Moonlight (4. 07) 3. The Legend of Kaie (5. 46) 4. Stingy Missie (1. 30) 5. Campenelissa (7. 30) 6. 3 O' Clock at Bourda Market (3. 10) 7. New Year Ballade (3. 28) 8. The Search (2. 28) 9. Stabroek Fancy (3. 37) <p>All the pieces composed and performed by Joyce Ferdinand-Lalljie on a Yamaha Grand Piano at the Powerhouse studio Nottingham, England, directly onto Digital Audio Tape. Recording Engineer: Darren Bourne.</p> <p>Cover photograph of Joyce performing live at the Queens College Auditorium in Georgetown in the then British Guiana.</p> | <h1 style="margin: 0;">Kaie</h1>  <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">Joyce Ferdinand-Lalljie Playing her own compositions</p> |
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A Bouquet of Guyanese Flowers



An Anthology of Guyanese poems
covering four Generations
edited by Robert Lalljie



This anthology of Guyanese poems is a personal selection that spans over four generations of Guyanese writers.

It contains the most acclaimed poets of the early generation of Guyanese poetry, includes the poets that came after them, and also includes the poems of the new emerging generation, who will keep the bright flame of Guyanese poetry burning and pass it on to a new generation.

The selection of poets is a personal one, as is the choice of the poems. Fortunately, I have in the course of time met with most of the poets featured and come to know them personally.

There is a pen sketch of each poet featured at the end of the anthology, which does not touch on their work generally, that pleasure is left for the reader. But I wished to give some personal insights into the poets featured for the reader to get an intimate picture of the poet through the prism of my eyes.

The poets featured in this anthology in alphabetical order are: Pat Cameron; Martin Carter; Ivan Forrester; Stanley Greaves; Mahlon Herbert; Oscar Kilkenny; Eusi Kwayana; Robert Lalljie; Janet Naidu; Brenda Richards and A. J. Seymour.

ISBN 978-976-8159-21-2

RRP £9.99 or \$16US

QUEEN'S COLLEGE — PHOTOS



Photo courtesy Rod Westmaas

These photos were taken by Hon. Sec. Rod Westmaas during a visit to Guyana in autumn 2012.

The photo on the left shows part of the library. It is reported to be well stocked with books, but that there is a shortage of proper bookcases.



Photo courtesy Rod Westmaas

The sportsfield, and roller.



Photo courtesy Rod Westmaas

One of the science laboratories



Photo courtesy Rod Westmaas

The administration and assembly hall block, which was re-built after the fire.

DIARY DATES

| | |
|------------|---|
| Sun APR 14 | BHS Association Members' Social (contact Claire Carballo – see below) |
| Sun MAY 12 | Sunday Brunch – The Bedford Pub, Balham (£18) |
| Sun JUL 14 | Family BBQ & dancing – St. John's Nature Garden, Clapham (£18) |
| Sun AUG 25 | QCA–BHSA Carnival Fete – Club Jasmins, Tooting (£10 in advance, £12 at door) |
| Fri OCT 11 | Cultural Evening at Kensington Library followed by a Reception (£15) |
| Sat OCT 12 | QCA–BHSA 25th Anniversary Dinner-Dance jointly with BHS Association (venue to be announced) |
| Sun OCT 13 | Annual Business Meeting for Association members and overseas delegates at Rod Westmaas's office in the City, with lunch (£10) |
| Sat NOV 23 | Annual General Meeting & Social – Guyana High Commission |
| Sun NOV 8 | Annual Dinner – Bunga Raya Restaurant, Thornton Heath |

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