Inside this issue:

Barbara Holder-Phenomenal Daughter  2
The Consummate Educator  3
National Award for Hilton Hemerding  3

Mrs. Evadne Talbot Celebrates 105  4
Summer Soiree  5

Joyful Donation  6
Thank You  6
Poetry Express: Black puddin’ Nostalgia  7
Quote for the Month  7

Wha de Story Seh?  8
Reader’s Response: Mout Open…  10
Delaware Picnic  11

Haynes Cite: Delusion or Denial  12
Fundraising Cause  13

Quiz Whiz  14
Proverb  14

Obituaries  14
David Hinds’ Tribute to Tchaiko  15
General Information  16
This year, Barbara Patricia Thomas-Holder joins the list of illustrious Guyanese, honoured for their “outstanding service and sterling contribution towards national development”. As part of the observance of Guyana’s 51st Independence Anniversary this month, sixty-nine persons, including thirty-one women, were identified for this year’s national awards to be conferred by President David Granger.

This distinguished daughter of Buxton is a lecturer in the faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Guyana. Prior to that, she taught at Bladen Hall Multilateral School and President’s College.

Barbara is the eldest of eight children born to Edwin Thomas (Buddy Wah-Wah) and the late Pauline Thomas (née Barnwell). She received her primary education from Buxton Congregational School then went on to County High School. She left County to attend the new Smith’s College and subsequently Buxton Government Secondary School.

She grew up with an early impression that Education was a great element of pride and success for the Buxton community. “There was always that feeling that someone (from the village) would be the next Guyana scholar,” she once noted. Her parents also did their best to inculcate in her a need to strive for a good education, and she took advantage of every opportunity afforded her.

Graduating from high school, Barbara decided to pursue a career in teaching. She started her teacher training at the Cyril Potter College of Education and completed her advance certificate at the Lillian Dewar College of Education. She later attended the University of Guyana, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology, then went on to complete a Master’s Degree in Social Work at Dalhousie University in Halifax of Nova Scotia, Canada.

After serving more than a decade as a schoolteacher, she moved on to become a lecturer at the University of Guyana. She has been there for almost 30 years and is held in high esteem by her students and peers. “I know that I’ve impacted a number of students both at the university and the other schools where I have taught; that’s where I get my reward - just seeing persons growing from strength to strength.”

Through her social work programme, Buxton has benefitted from several projects undertaken by students from the university. Mrs. Holder is also well-known as a community organizer and champion of a number of benevolent causes in the village. She is the president of the Buxton Restoration Committee.

Barbara is married to Justice Franklin Holder – a Guyana high court judge, and they are the proud parents of three daughters and one son — all university graduates. They are also the adoring grandparents of seven.

Heartiest congratulations to Sister Barbara on your national award; also, Happy Birthday wishes to you!
I was happy when I heard the news of the Golden Arrow of Achievement Award being bestowed upon Barbara Patricia Thomas-Holder for her “outstanding service and sterling contribution towards national development”. This was long overdue!

Those of us who know this educator and community worker can bear witness to her passion for serving without showboating. My many discussions with her compel me to expound: Barbara has a strong love for people and a nonpareil history of being committed to any mission that puts people first. As a Buxtonian, she has always been at the forefront of agitating for positive changes in the lives of the disadvantaged. Her caring spirit has served Buxtonians well in times of conflict and confusion. Who can forget those vicious attacks that were launched at her because she supported the restoration of Tipperary Hall? Barbara never allowed those vitriolic rants to kill her spirit. Instead, she courageously continued on her journey of being a paragon of goodwill.

Barbara has always been a voice of reason, using commonsense and constancy to invest in solutions to empower the lives of her fellow men. Even though she does not reside in Buxton now, her consistent presence to mobilize Buxtonians at the grass root level continues to be the hallmark of her exceptional effort to give back. We can all agree, her modesty and ability to connect to ordinary folks are attributes and aspirations we should all emulate and keep alive. Clearly, her social work praxis, working as a professor and community activist, has paid dividends.

Barbara’s sense of family is truly exceptional. Those of us who grew up with her are always impressed by her personal commitment to the wellbeing of her family. More than anything else, we are so inspired by her fortitude in effectively coping with the loss of four younger siblings over the years. This is one-strong-Black-woman!

Buxtonians are extremely proud of this consummate community support worker for receiving this coveted award for her monumental contributions to humanity.

The Bible tells us, the steps of a good person are ordered by the Lord. Well, Barbara Patricia Thomas-Holder is that good person whose steps we must follow. Congratulations!

National Award for Hilton

Congratulations to Hilton Hemerding on being awarded the Golden Arrow of Achievement! The distinctly accomplished folk singer, songwriter and musician made his mark as the lead vocalist and guitarist in the masterpiece album, “Bamboo Fire” by the Emel Singers, a group formed by students at Teachers’ Training College.

Hilton spent some of his youthful years in Buxton where his father, the late Cannon David S. Hemerding, was the vicar at St. Augustine’s Anglican Church (1963 — 1980). He penned his solo classic, “Beautiful Guyana”, sitting on a tomb in the churchyard.

After he graduated from Queen’s College, the former altar boy taught at Buxton’s County High School before going off to the secondary school teachers’ training college.

Hilton now resides in New York, where he works diligently to promote and preserve the Guyanese cultural identity.
Buxton’s most senior citizen, Mrs. Evadne Talbot, celebrated another milestone birthday this month at her Company Road home with family and friends.

She was born Evadne Eldika Watson on 10th May, 1912. She married King Talbot and the union produced five children. Mr. Talbot passed on in June, 1985.

Buxton Express extends heartiest congratulations to Mother Talbot and best wishes for many more healthy and happy years.
BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP HERITAGE FUND (USA)

presents

Annual Buxton Soirée

In Aid of Buxton Scholarship & Youth Empowerment Programs

SATURDAY, JULY 1ST, 2017

from 6:00 p.m.

454 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207
(Between Blake & Sutter Avenues)

Super Entertainment & Delectable Cuisine
David/Revelation Band * D.J. Stereo Choice
Drumming * Dancing * Dining & More...

Taste of Home

Cook-up * Roti & Curry * Fried Rice * Chowmein * Spinach Rice *
Macaroni Cheese * Fried Chicken * Jerk Pork * Fried Fish *
BlackPudding * Souse * WhitePudding * Fish Cake * Konkie *
Cassava Pone * Pastries * Phulouri * Channa * Sorrell * Mauby...

FOR TICKETS / INFO
John “P” Newton: 347-881-7055
Mboyu Wood: 646-727-5937
Ojembo Tafawa: 631-806-3500
Lorna Campbell: 718-342-0040
Onuko Connell: 917-912-9384
Ken Wilkinson: 646-789-3972
Rennie Parris, Sr.: 347-863-6121
Quintin Bacchus: 202-460-3948
Denise Booker: 929-394-7293

TICKET DONATION
Adult: $15 / Pre-Teen: $5
Free Dinner & Select Beverage
Served up to 10:00 p.m.
EXTRA
Wild Meat Dishes & Cocktail Drinks
Students in Buxton are thankful for a recent donation of a piano and a large quantity of text books from New York resident, Mrs. Edris Adams-Primo (Joy Wilson). The shipment was received by the well-known community organizer, Rollo Younge. It is expected that the piano would help in expanding music education among youths in the village. The more than 200 text books were distributed to high school members of the Buxton Pride Steel Orchestra and other students. The subject materials included:

- Algebra
- Calculus & Pre-Calculus
- Geometry
- Sequential Mathematics
- Mathematics Projects
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- Physics
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management
- Microsoft Operating Systems

In the photo is Mr. Morris Wilson who stood in for his sister at a display of the items.

**Thank You**

The Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund wishes to thank everyone who sent in donations this month. Special note of appreciation to Mr. Wesley James of Brooklyn, New York for his steady support.
Black puddin’ Conversation

Black and shine
Rice seasoned with blood and thyme
Stuffed in intestine

Long and short
Like a man’s part
Exciting the heart

Line top and corner shop
Jug lamps on spot
The actions never stop

Miss Eva and Miss Cecelia
Expert black pudding makers
Knew how to capture unique flavours

Pervasive and savory smell
Coagulating red blood cell
Inspiring children to do well

Married-man pork and pepper blend
Creating a legend
For unforgettable taste that never ends.

...Quintin Bacchus

Quote for the Month

“A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.”

~Washington Irving
Sunday May 21, 2017, his name was called: “Andre Williams”. He dropped to his knees and the crowd roared! He got up and made the Usain Bolt sign - shooting for the stars in a bolt of lightning - and the crowd of graduates roared even louder. Our Andre, a Buxton man, walked with swagger over to the officials, collected his earned diploma for his Bachelor’s Degree in Theology and shook their hands. I cried! I screamed! I cried some more. Sheer pride, here. Yes, he made it!

Andre Williams is a Buxtonian from Buxton Middle Street. He is the son of Cecil and Muriel Williams. He is a winner and was so from as early as I can remember. Sometime in 1986, he attended the Seventh-Day Adventist Church crusade and after being baptized by Pastor Hilton Paul Garnet, Andre became a permanent member at our church social and functions. He became a force to be reckoned with - sunny in disposition, broad smile, open, congenial and hungry - hungry for knowledge. I saw that hunger in him when he showed up at church one afternoon with an exercise book and asked me to teach him what I was teaching some younger children. It was a strange request, but when I looked in his eyes I saw earnestness and what I call hunger. He learned fast and with passion. From there he went on to learn as best he could.

Andre attended Buxton Community High school, worked at Geology and Mines, and the Guyana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist as a pastor. He thanks a network of people including Pastor Garnett and Leslyn Garnett from Annandale. These folks became other-father and other-mother for him. Andre’s journey towards earning his degree was by first taking courses by extension at the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) while pastoring in Guyana. He later moved to USC campus in Trinidad and Tobago to complete the degree in-residence, with his wife, Wendy Williams formerly Wendy McCurchin, their daughter and two sons. At USC, they would be tested and make their testimonies. Andre’s journey is one of inspiration and is left for him to tell. I can hardly wait.
An Overcomer: Andre’s journey is a testimony about overcoming obstacles and not taking education for granted. He makes no excuses about his setbacks or shortcomings; he dives in and conquers—with a family besides. If there is one thing I learned from him is that education is not had solely in the classroom of any school. Andre got his in church, too, where he learned to engage with learning the scriptures and from that exercise, he navigated a sea of knowledge which eventually lead to his earning a degree for which he yearned. Andre is a trail blazer—and exemplifies the spirit of what it means to be a Buxtonian.

Andre makes me think that the village, is the people, who wherever they are located nurture the children. He makes me think of the African term “Ubuntu”—I am because you are. It speaks to the interconnectedness and reciprocity of human relationships. Andre demonstrates the interconnectedness of what happens when a village teaches its young. The young of the village will learn—in their own way and on their own terms and become richer more fuller individuals. Eusi Kwayana, the sage of Buxton who named Andre’s sons, says a community must be the teachers. Embrace all, and all types of paces and styles of learning and not depend solely on a government to educate its people.

Thus, let it be recorded in Buxton’s history the fact that along with Andre, his daughter Denicia Williams on the same day marched and collected her earned degree! Denicia draws inspiration from Andre whom she calls “the best man in my life.” I foresee a generation of individuals walking in Andre’s wake blazing trails to “add to our illustrious line of sons and daughter who all time give of their best that we may shine for Buxton (Buxton Battle Song) and GOD and Andre would agree.
Dear Pauline,

I read the article you wrote for the April edition ["Mouth Open ‘Tory Jump Out”]. Good work! However, as you know me, I have to "pick up" for the men. The problem is as you said, [with gender and sexuality] very complex. As I see it, I think the core problem is that there was never a "language" that made it easier to speak about sexual matters between parents and children. Even at secondary school we had Stone and Cozen – Biology for Schools and I can’t remember us ever getting to the pages dealing with reproduction. Was it because we had a lot to cover and could not get all the way there? Maybe the students who had the chance to sit for human biology touched those parts but what we were prepared for general biology (plants and animals). We often heard when sex is mentioned that such matters are “nasty”. This is something we had to unlearn when we heeded to the pressures of hormones.

We come from a culture that told us as children that babies came by aero-planes. The only time a girl is really told anything about sex (and not even properly) is after seeing her first period. That is when they "put some sense in she head."

Boys were left to learn the best way they could, quite often, listening to lies of their friends who claim to have had sexual experience with "many" girls; for the lucky ones (boys and girls) who read, they were able to gather some info about how things really worked. This reminds me about a little book in the school library (Bladen Hall Multilateral) that got a lot of attention, because it had graphic drawings showing how babies are made. The girls with their Mills & Boons (soft porn) and sometimes we, boys, who were lucky to read Thoughts for Teens (of course girls too), picked up a thing or two. However, most of the time, we were left in the dark. Now and again, we would get a peek in some old porn magazines filled mostly with Whites, which left you with the feeling that this is what these White folks get up to.

When it comes to the number of children some women got, I think I can understand the dynamics of those days. Men had it easier, in that they were bread winners. This does not mean that women didn’t earn as well. Women, on the other hand, had abortion options. (Bush Medicine was well known). My guess is that belief in God may have prevented too many abortions happening and that, if it got out, it was considered shameful. Apart from that, young children were often referred to as “God angel” and children were generally seen as a blessing.

One other question to ask and a very difficult one is: How long did these marriage relationships remain one of love and not merely fulfilling the "duty" of taking care of the family; and that sexual pleasure could be had elsewhere (a “sweet woman”) and often resulted in other children? Could this be the reason why older women, who knew of their husband’s goings on with other women, never led them to fight with their rivals, the way these things led to physical clashes with the younger ones? Not forgetting that in colonial times and even after, many men worked far away from home and satisfied their sexual needs where they worked. This could have led to children being born in those areas as well even though we know that the women doing this kind of “business” often took care not to get pregnant. All the same, it is not unusual to find out in later years that you have a sister or brother around the bauxite or manganese mines. Let me know what you think?

~ Cloyd Nelson

Cloyd Nelson is a Buxtonian living in The Czech Republic. Pauline and he were classmates since elementary school and have remained friends since. Cloyd reads and vets the pieces Pauline contributes to the Buxton-Friendship Express. She thanks him for joining the conversation.
SAT., JULY 15TH
11AM TO 7PM
ORIGINAL GUYANESE ASSOCIATION OF DELAWARE INVITES YOU TO

27TH ANNUAL
GUYANESE
&
FRIENDS
Picnic

BRING YOUR PICNIC BASKET, CHAIRS, TENTS, BLANKETS AND JOIN US FOR A FAMILY PICNIC IN THE PARK

MUSIC BY DJ SPRAGGA & DJ NEVILLE | GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

DONATION $5 FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN OVER 12 YEARS OLD

CONTACT: WARREN (302) 750-7659
OLIVE & LYNDON (302) 366-8879
DAPHNE (302) 429-0964 | JOAN (302) 571-9850
BERTLEY (302) 764-4593

BANNING PARK BANNING PAVILION
102 MIDDLEBORO ROAD
STANTON, DE 19804
There is no doubt that after two years in office the Coalition Government has good intentions. As far as the government can see, they have been doing extremely well. For them crime is under control, education delivery is better, more people are employed, corruption has decreased, drug-running is on the decline, the economy is doing better, workers are earning more, health care delivery is better, contractors are no longer being overpaid - everything is nice and dandy. Whether those things are reality or fantasy is a matter of conjecture, based on who answers the question. For the rational Coalition supporter, action speaks louder than words. One thing is undisputable - generally, Georgetown is cleaner than it was just over two years ago and that has absolutely nothing to do with the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Georgetown.

It was JESUS, speaking to the disciples of John (the Baptist) said, "No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment and the rent is made worse. Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine in new bottles, and both are preserved." Matthew 9: 16-17. The government will do well to heed the advice of this portion of Scripture. Much of our current problems are due to ‘old wine’ or ‘old wine bottles.’ Much of what the current Government does resembles the script presented by the PPP/C. This is so because our policymakers seem to be visionless in every sphere of governance.

The government would have presented its 2017 National Budget in December of 2016; five months later, five percent of the intended projects have not commenced. It is highly likely that most of the projects scheduled for 2017 will commence in July/August since the rainy season is with us and is predicted to be intense. It may appear to be no big thing; however, it has serious effects on the national economy. Thousands of construction workers, their families and the business sector are awaiting the injection of that money. It is a fact that the economy has slowed down considerably; less illicit finance appears to be in the system also.

(Continued on page 13)
The question is, what is responsible for the government being unable to spend the budgeted sums to date? Answer, new wine in old bottle. The National Procurement System, as currently implemented, coupled with endemic corruption continue to stifle the economy. We have a situation where 'thirty-two' bidders vie for one project; each bidder being required to provide more than one hundred pages of information and the bids being evaluated by incompetent or unscrupulous evaluators. The result: six to twelve weeks of evaluation time. The procurement process for most medium to largescale, locally-funded projects is three months. When we incorporate that fact with poor designs, what do we get: the opposition accusing the government of being corrupt, incompetent and exorbitant, but whose fault that is?

Personally, I am livid about what is happening. I will take my first swipe at the Minister of Education. He seems to be obsessed and upset with those few students who challenge their minds by pursuing twenty and more subjects at CXC O-Level examination. All of the children, who have attempted this feat to date, have been successful. He says they should be more involved in sports and music. News flash: Most of the children would have had Physical Education (PE) and/or music as part of the suite of subjects. His Ministry is currently wasting millions on a Learning Channel, inherited from the last administration. The educational material dissemination TV channel is on air for more than twenty hours per day beaming very good information. Here is the problem: Is that invaluable information reaching its intended audience and in an economical way? The answer is a big, fat NO. By the way, yuh see dat new school he promise fu bil in Buxtanz, it write pun ice.

Happy 51st Independence Anniversary to you all!

Better safe dan sarry.

Until the next time, to God be the Glory!

The Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund is holding a fundraising Soirée event on Saturday, July 1st, 2017 in Brooklyn, New York. This venture will benefit our School Tools Project. Proceeds will help to purchase backpacks, uniforms, dictionaries, calculators, notebooks, pens, pencils and other essential supplies for scores of school children going off to secondary school. Like last year, we also hope to assist needy families with the required registration fees for school. We would greatly appreciate it, if you would purchase a ticket or make a special donation towards this cause. Bring your family members and friends along. You can expect to have a good time while giving back to make your village a better and brighter community. For more details of the Soirée, kindly turn to page 5.
LAST MONTH’S QUIZ:
In what year did the people of Buxton stop the train and, what led to it?
1862.

Villagers armed themselves with cutlasses, axes, sticks and other implements, laid wait along the railway line and intercepted the locomotive train carrying the Governor, whose audience they had fiercely sought. It was the last resort in a series of efforts by them to secure the abolishment of a repressive tax that was imposed on properties in the village.

As the train approached Buxton, the bold villagers formed themselves into a human shield, forcing the driver to bring the train to an immediate halt. The protestors then proceeded to immobilize the engine by applying chains and locks to its wheels. This forced the governor to step out and meet with villagers. After listening to their complaint, he reportedly decided to repeal the burdensome tax.

“TEST AND SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS ABOUT BUXTON AND BUXTONIANS. WE POSE A QUESTION EACH MONTH AND INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT THE ANSWER. THE CORRECT ANSWER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH’S ISSUE.

This Month’s Proverb
“If oil ah float, watah deh ah battam.”

Meaning:
A little evidence can tell the whole story. Sorry Mr. Trump!
May 2017

OBITUARIES

RECENT TRANSITIONS

◊ MILTON HODGE — He departed this life on 29th April, 2017 in Brooklyn, New York. He was 58 years old at the time of his sudden demise. Milton was the son of the late Iris Beryl Hodge (Berl Ifill) and Kenneth Hodge; brother of Clonel Ifill, Enid Barnes (née Ifill), Michael, Jenifer Wendella, and Lyndon Hodge; nephew of Elaine Warde (née Ifill). He is survived by his three daughters.

◊ EDWARD ISAACS, SR. — He passed away on May 1st, at the age of 81, in New York City.

◊ TCHAIKO KWAYANA — She succumbed on May 6, in San Diego, California, at the age of 79. She was laid to rest in Atlanta, Georgia. See Dr. Hinds’ tribute on page 16.

◊ WILLIAM ALFRED CHARLES (Kaipan) — He passed away on 20th May, 2017 at his home in Guyana. He was 67 years old.

Edward Isaacs, Sr.

A native of Buxton/Friendship, he lived and worked for many years in the bauxite town of Linden. He subsequently moved to the United States and spent his final years in New York.

On May 1st, 2017, Edward Isaacs passed away at the Presbyterian Hospital in Harlem, New York City. He was 81 years old.

He leaves behind, his wife - Eugenie Isaacs; six children - Edward, Jr., Nigel, Dawn and Orin Isaacs; Delon and Devon Nassey; and many loving grandchildren.

Edward was the only brother of Ismay McCarrell, Evelyn Lewis, Princess Glen, Doris Gordon, the late Evadne Barrett and Pearl Fraser.

He was the uncle of Pam Adams (nee Bacchus), Herbert Bacchus; Charles, Owen Oswald, Lorna and Denise McCarrell, Carol Phill; John, Trevor, Everil and Kelwin Barrett; Vincent (Rocky), Cheryl, Owen and Sharon Glen.Ava Baker; Paul Gordon; Vanessa, Racquel, Altheia, Karen, Camille and Karen Fraser; Paul Gordon; and others. He was also a cousin of Wilfred Lee, the late Hector Lee, the Isaacs’ family and many others.

The funeral for the late Edward Isaacs, Sr. was held on May 11, 2017 in Brooklyn, New York where, the next day, his remains were laid to rest at the Cypress Hills Cemetery.

Condolences

We extend our deepest condolences to everyone who recently lost a loved one. Our hearts and prayers go out to all of you, including the Connell family who lost three family members in the spate of a few weeks.

May the wonderful memories left behind comfort your sorrows!

WEEP NOT FOR ME

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul’s sweet fight
I am at peace, my soul’s at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years
There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on
Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life

...Unknown Author
Death is inevitable, but we are still shocked when it comes to those close to us or those who crossed our path. Our friend, mother, sister and comrade, Tchaiko Kwayana was called home to the ancestors on Saturday May 6 after an almost year-long battle with cancer. I have known Tchaiko Kwayana for close to five decades, first as a little boy in Buxton and later as a colleague and friend. She is known in Guyana as the wife of Eusi Kwayana.

Tchaiko Kwayana was born in Georgia, USA in 1937 as Ann F. Cook. She was a graduate of Paine College, Augusta, Georgia and of Teachers College, Columbia University and a doctoral student in African Studies at the Union Institute. She taught English at the high school and college levels in three continents: Nigeria, Africa; Guyana, South America; and on both the east and west coasts of the USA. Sister Tchaiko first visited Guyana in 1968 as part of her interest in studying the African diaspora.

Eusi and Tchaiko’s nuptials
on 3rd April, 1971

(Continued on page 17)
As an internationalist and Pan-Africanist, she had already lived in Africa, where she taught English in Nigeria. She was part of a larger group of African Americans who answered the call of Africa and migrated to the continent to help the newly independent countries regroup after the long period of colonization. Many went to Ghana, the home of the legendary Kwame Nkrumah, but some, like Sister Tchaiko, opted for other countries on the continent. By the time she visited Guyana, her future husband, Eusi, had cemented his place as a pioneer of the modern Black Nationalist and Pan Africanist Caribbean movement. He had co-founded the African Society for Racial Equality (ASRE) in 1961 and the African Society for Cultural Relations with Independent Africa (ASCRIA) in 1964 and was the spearhead of what became known as the “Cultural Revolution” among African Guyanese. It was inevitable, then, that any visitor to Guyana with an interest in the African diaspora would encounter Eusi. Sister Tchaiko met him when she visited in 1968 and the rest is history. They got married in 1971 and she moved to Guyana. The couple bore four children and the marriage lasted until her death.

While in Guyana, Sister Tchaiko continued her career as a teacher. She took up duty at her husband’s school in Buxton—the famous County High School, which later became the Republic Co-operative High School. While Eusi’s name remains inextricably linked to the school, Sister Tchaiko stamped her own personality there, independent of Eusi. She taught English and was outstanding at it. But it was as a disciplinarian, one who paid close attention to standards and as a practitioner of a holistic education that combined academics with culture that she is best remembered for by her students. I remember well how my sister, Denise, who was one of her students, became a transformed person after attending County for her first term. She still to this day speaks of the impact of Tchaiko on changing her attitude.

I also remember how Sister Tchaiko quickly blended into the Buxton community. She became a Buxtonion soon after settling there. She made friends independent of Eusi, especially with the women of Buxton backdam-side, where the family lived. I remember as a little boy seeing this new resident taking her cow to “graze” and wondering whether she had lived in our village before. She went about her business, not as the wife of a famous man, but as an ordinary resident doing ordinary things just like the other women of the village. It is the utmost respect that one could give to a village. That respect for our village stayed with Sister Tchaiko for the rest of her life.

When in 1979, the world honored the children of the universe by designating that year International Year of the Child, Sister Tchaiko was one of the local coordinators. She organized the young people in the village into a youth brigade that spent the year doing cultural and social projects which enriched our village and also opened our eyes to the cause of social justice. On a personal note, it was at one of our “public meetings” that I first mounted a public platform as a speaker. When, I sought to get out of it because of nervousness, Sister Tchaiko, in her usual decisive manner, said “you are down to speak and it’s this evening.”

(Continued on page 18)
Sister Tchaiko also found time to pursue writing. She co-authored with Eusi the book “Scars of Bondage: A First Look at the Slave Colonial Experience of the Africans in Guyana”. She also wrote “Black Pride? Some Contradictions”.

At the national level, Sister Tchaiko participated in the activities of ASCRIA and later the Working People’s Alliance (WPA). She was a founding member of the Women Against Terror (WAT), a group of women who organized themselves to aid the struggle against the authoritarian government of the day. Like other WPA members, she suffered at the hands of the State and Para-State forces—she was harassed and physically assaulted. As the WPA observed in its tribute to her: “From the time of her arrival in Guyana Sister Tchaiko became immersed in the struggles of the African community and the Guyanese nation. Her commitment to our people and country was a lifelong endeavor. From the moment she answered the call to serve to the time of her death, she remained unwavering in her support of the Guyanese struggle, for liberation, racial pride, political and racial reconciliation and the empowerment of women and children and the elderly.”

In 1982, as the regime became more aggressive, she left Guyana with her children. Like other WPA members, neither she nor Eusi could find work. Her children were growing up and needed to be fed. She returned to the USA and instantly became the sole breadwinner of the family. They visited Guyana regularly and Eusi visited the USA, but it was Tchaiko who shouldered the burden of the day to day affairs of the children, freeing Eusi to continue his service to Guyana and the world. She also continued her advocacy on behalf of Guyana. In Atlanta, she co-founded Helping Uplift Guyanese (HUG) a group formed to support the struggle in Guyana.

(Continued from page 17)

(Continued on page 19)
Sister Tchaiko resumed her teaching career, first in Georgia and later in San Diego, California where she spent her last years. Eusi joined her in 2002, and together they soldiered on as activists and educators while still mothering and fathering their now grown children. Sister Tchaiko would take another step—she embarked on studies toward a PhD in African Studies. Unfortunately, she passed on before its completion.

In San Diego, she not only taught high school, but also at the tertiary level. She taught English as a Second Language at Southwestern College and History and English from a Black Perspective at both the Honors and the Regular levels at Mesa College. As testimony of her teaching skills, in 1994/1995, along with eighty-nine other teachers of English nationwide, after a year of rigorous requirements including two-days of written examinations, Tchaiko Kwayana made history by becoming the first African American teacher in California to become a Nationally Board Certified Teacher of English.

We remember our sister as a fighter for justice, a mother, a wife and above all a humanist who rose above narrow sectarianism and embraced our common humanity. Perhaps the words of Guyana’s national poet, Martin Carter, as always, capture the essence of my short tribute.

“Dear Comrade
if it must be
you speak no more with me
nor smile no more with me
then let me take
a patience and a calm
for even now the greener leaf explodes
sun brightens stone
and all the river burns.
Now from the mourning vanguard moving on
dear Comrade I salute you and I say
Death will not find us thinking that we die.”

...Dr. David Hinds

(Continued from page 18)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY/DATE</th>
<th>EVENT / ACTIVITY</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
<th>PARTICULARS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, July 1</td>
<td>Summer Soiree</td>
<td>454 Vermont St. Brooklyn, NY 11207</td>
<td>Variety Entertainment and Cultural Extravaganza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7 - 11</td>
<td>Children’s Art Workshop &amp; Exhibition</td>
<td>Buxton/Friendship</td>
<td>To be conducted by Jona-than Azore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14 - 18</td>
<td>Student Empowerment Activities</td>
<td>Buxton/Friendship</td>
<td>Workshop, Edutainment, School Supplies Distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 8</td>
<td>Autumn Sizzle</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>Exotic Cuisine, Cocktail &amp; Culture Lime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BUXTON: Guyana’s Premier Village