

The BUXTON--FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS

170th Anniversary New York Show "Thank You"

Greetings to the Diaspora!!

On behalf of the Planning Committee for the 170th Anniversary commemoration of The Purchase of Buxton and host of the Dinner Concert held on Sunday May 2, 2010, I wish to express our warmest and heartfelt thanks to all of our guests for your show of support that was demonstrated by your presence at the Catherine McCauley High School Auditorium. The success of the event was largely due to your unwavering commitment to our intent and ultimate goal to restore Buxton-Friendship to the glory days that long characterized it as the Premier Village. It is worthy to note that the patience and tolerance you displayed were most rewarding. Your cheers and laughter in response to each act served as token gestures of inspiration that propelled the artistes to give of their best.

The Committee also ex-

tends its sincere appreciation to the performers-Cheryl Ainsworth (of Victoria), Horace Azore, Quintin Bacchus, Errol and Vashti Cockfield, Ras Michael Jeune, Kofi Kwayana and Remington London; drummers Akoya Rudder (of Den Amstel), Monty Jordan and Kimbake-for your contributions. We also extend a note of thanks to Barbara Thomas-Holder and Hazel Azore for their assistance. Your time and commitment were immeasurable and, in return, this Committee will forever be grateful.

We must, however, acknowledge that the spirit of the event was dampened by a long and unfortunate delay due to unforeseen circumstances. For this reason I extend to you our sincere apology and ask for your forgiveness. We are indeed sorry for all of the discomfort that you endured as a result of the delay.

The Committee takes this opportunity to remind

Mboya Wood

ticket purchasers that you will receive a complimentary copy of the Souvenir Magazine when it becomes available.

The after-concert activities could be considered both historical and traditional. Our guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner that showcased traditional Guyanese foods which included curry & roti, cook-up rice, chow mein, fried-rice, codfish cakes, sorrel, mauby, ginger beer, fruit punch, phulouri, pastries, cocnut buns, cassava pone and the illusive conkey. Special thanks to the Ifill and McDonald families and Vashti Cockfield for their donations to the menu, and Jacqueline Newton for her assistance with the set-up and serving of the food.

We also wish to thank Oneko Connell for providing the musical entertainment which featured

(Continued on page 2)



May 2010

Inside this issue:

Chairman's Message	2
Family Treasure	3
Bitter-Sweet Taste	4
Buxton Prepares	5
Significant Event	6
Celebrating our Heritage	7
Community Events Contact Information	8

Top Stories

- Mboya Wood thanks patrons
- The Life & Legacy of Walther Azore
- Barbara Thomas-Holder pens view of Inaugural Event in New York
- Village preparing to welcome home descendants
- Dr. Ifill points out significance of NY Show
- CIMBUX Memorial Dance
- Calendar of Anniversary events

Chairman's "Thank You" Message

(Continued from page 1)

Guyanese folk songs, calypsos and shantos.

In the dining hall, the atmosphere allowed villagers an opportunity to rekindle old flames that were hidden beneath ashes which had gone cold. It was villager meeting villager, perhaps after eons of years, lost and consumed in Uncle Sam's culture of people in a wilderness.

The artistic renditions of Buxton Landmarks and the people and their lifestyle were presented by Messrs. Lyndon Barton and Jona-

than Azore. The art work on display was pristine; each piece proclaiming its right as an historical artifact worthy of preservation in the annals of Buxton history.

Throughout the evening, villagers mingled in an atmosphere that typified Saturday morning at the Buxton Market. The display of pleasant surprises and expressions of joy at the sight of loved ones who had escaped each other's sight for reasons engrained in the culture of the metropolis was evident with bear hugs and friendly kisses.

Once again, I extend our sincere gratitude to all of you who attended the event, as well as to those of you who supported it in other ways.

Asante Sana!

(Thank you very much!)

Mboya Wood

Chairman

Buxton 170th Anniversary
Commemoration Committee

"Throughout the evening, villagers mingled in an atmosphere that typified Saturday morning at the Buxton marketplace. The display of pleasant surprises and expressions of joy at the sight of loved ones who had escaped each other's sight for reasons engrained in the culture of the metropolis was evident with bear hugs and friendly kisses..."

**Due by
May 29**

Advertising Prices:

- \$10
- \$50
- \$75-Quarter Page
- \$100-Half Page
- \$150-Full Page

Make cheque/money order payable to Lorna Campbell, and mail it to:

454 Vermont Street,
Brooklyn, NY 11207, USA

Buxton Souvenir Magazine

Have your name listed with a greeting in this historic publication for just US\$10.

Space is also available for commercial advertising and messages at low prices.



Phone

718-342-0040

E-mail

lorna@buxtonguyana.net

Family Treasure

by Francis Yvonne Jackson

Walther Herman Azore, son of the soil, Generation 5, left Buxton Village around 1920 as a Pan Boiler for British Honduras [now Belize] sugar refinery, where he applied his training. According to his daughter, Sheila Azore, who resides in Matapan, Massachusetts, he entered Chicago School of Mechanical Dentistry 1925-1927. He started his dental service in Everett, in the basement of his house, to serve the Black community at a time when Negroes were not served by White dental clinics in the area. He was a devout Episcopalian of St. Cyprian Church in Everett. Walther Azore married Amy Dunwoody of Everett, Massachusetts. Uncle Walther died in Cape Cod, Massachusetts in August, 1988.

In conversation with my mother, the late Winifred Jackson, nee Adams, Generation 6, who was his niece and also from Buxton, she remembered when Uncle Walther returned to the Village in 1938 and built the family house. He brought the architectural design from Honduras and named the house "Hondurasville". The massive greenheart

structure standing on stilts exists today and is occupied by Generation 8 from the family tree branch.

Uncle Walther was a true Buxtonian who never left the village he remembered back home. He returned and built an edifice for generations to come. He was generous, kind and well-liked; there was not a day that went by that his name was not mentioned in glowing terms in the family unit.

I visited Everett, MA and met him the year before he died. I did not know, at the time, that I would have been the bearer to tell his story. I am glad that I had the opportunity to see this living ancestor.

My maternal grandmother, Ruth Sheiletl Adams, nee Azore, who was Uncle Walther's sister, passed away on 12th May, 1941-the year before I was born. Although I was not born in Buxton, my roots stem from there, and it is the village I never neglected to visit. But my recent visit to "Hondurasville" sums up my experience:

2006: Ah who dah!

*Ah who dah worried me,
as brothas' were askin...*

*hanging out on the line top
in dreads*

Not sure who we were,

friend, agent or police,

*Eyes pierced into the moving
van*

*Hoping to identify the images
they saw*

*We backed up, wanted to
turn back,*

Because we were afraid,

*We kept moving to our
destination*

*Beyond Middle Walk Line
Top*

*To my mother's birth
place,*

*Hondurasville as I remembered
53 years ago,*

*Fence adorned with croton
palms,*

*I visited Dear Aunt, my
mother's aunt, she lived
there*

*Dunks tree in the back
yard*

*I used to shake the tree
limbs*

*Dunks dropped, I picked
up the yellow fruit,*

The size of a strawberry,

*My childhood days' visits
to Buxton Village were
memorable events,*

*The old Buxton village, I
once knew,*

*Not the new Buxton village
I saw,*

*Buxton Village will return
to its splendid glory*

*Where and when all Buxtonians
would*

go back home....



The late Walther Azore

About the Writer

Francis Yvonne Jackson emigrated to the USA in 1963 and still lives there. She is the author of

**"Come Walk with Me
from Guyana to North
America"**

It is a book of verses.

Copies of this book can be purchased from

www.Xlibris.com

Bitter-Sweet Taste

by **Barbara Thomas-Holder**



"...the backdrop depicting scenes from the Village and Art pieces that captured legendary characters and traditional events in the village brought history to life in the auditorium and dining hall of Catherine McCauley High School, in Brooklyn, New York."



A section of the crowd at the cultural Show & Dinner Reception in Brooklyn, New York, commemorating the 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of Buxton, Guyana.

The much anticipated New York Variety Concert & Dinner Reception, a celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of Buxton and a fundraising event for the Tipperary Hall Restoration Project, achieved its purpose of attracting a large gathering of Buxtonians and friends of the village. Naturally, any opportunity to meet, greet and chat is welcomed by all of us, villagers. The idea of a combined concert and dinner was indeed excellent and highly commendable. However, the unexplained, extremely late commencement of the programme was a major disappointment and its coordination very bad, to say the least; this, especially so, for an inaugural event. It smacks of poor organisation and total disrespect for an audience, whose patience obviously exceeded its limit. Our foreparents

must have stewed their teeth in utter disgust.

Excellent piano renditions by Errol Cockfield, Sr.; songs by Kofi Kwayana; poetry recitals by Vashti Cockfield, Ras Michael Jeune and Cheryl Ainsworth; and dramatic performances by Horace Azore, Quintin Bacchus and Remington London, among others, were not enough to mitigate the frustrations of many in the audience. Nonetheless, the backdrop depicting scenes from the Village and Art pieces that captured legendary characters and popular events brought history to life in the auditorium and dining hall of Catherine McCauley High School, in Brooklyn, New York. Thanks to Jonathan Azore and Lyndon Barton.

As the evening progressed, the spotlight shifted to the Guyanese gourmet meal. The guests queued up to enjoy what turned out to be a real treat—a sumptuous dinner.

The assortment of dishes included Calaloo Cook-up Rice, Fried Rice, Chowmein, Roti & Curry, Black- and White pudding, Souse, Phulouri, Cheesestraw, Patties, Cassava Pone, Coconut Buns, Conkie, Mauby, Sorrel, Ginger Beer, Fruit Punch and Soda. I was amazed to see how much 'we' could eat.

After all, I must admit I did enjoy the event.

To the organizers, do not dismay! Life is a lesson and Experience a teacher. Next time around, let it be bigger and better as we co-operate to restore Buxton to its premier status.

Barbara Thomas-Holder

Editor's Note:

The writer heads the Buxton Response Committee which is organizing the celebration of the 170th Anniversary in Buxton. She was on a short visit to New York and attended the Show.

Transition

We regret to report the passing of Frank Herbert Baron, formerly of Old Road, Buxton Front. He left us on Monday, April 26 in Ontario, Canada.

He was the brother of Rickford Baron of Buxton Front, Claudia Straughn and Enid Tiwari of USA, and the recently departed Patrick Baron.

He was also an uncle of Ronald Percival of Old Road, Buxton

May his soul Rest in Peace!

Village Prepares to Welcome Sons & Daughters



Plans are steaming along for a grand homecoming celebration of our village's 170th Anniversary. Head of the local committee that has undertaken planning of the activities there, Mrs. Barbara Thomas-Holder, has assured us that her team is working assiduously to promote and educate the country about the significance of this development. In this regard, the committee is making arrangements to utilize both print and broadcast media.

Mrs. Holder who was in New York, early this month, on a short visit, also took time to spend the evening at the Dinner Show in Brooklyn that kicked off the commemoration of the 170th anniversary.

The first event to be hosted in Buxton will be a Welcome Reception on the afternoon of Saturday, 24 July, 2010. Guests will be able to reunite with long-separated relatives and friends, as they enjoy nos-

talgic Saturday evening treats.

The Buxton committee also plans to stage a day of Sporting Activities, Guided Tours of the village, House Calls on the elderly, a Children's Literary Day Camp and a Market Day.

The group will also oversee the formal Opening Ceremony and a symposium that will feature a blue-ribbon panel of participants.

Event Prices

Cultural Show

Monday, 26 July, 2010

This event will be presented by the local organizing committee, under the direction of dramatist Jerome Hope and script writer Mosa Telford, among others. Proceeds will help fund the Emancipation Day feeding programme.

GY\$500

Day trip to Baganara Island Resort, Essequibo

Tuesday, 27 July, 2010

You will fall in love with this paradise island located five miles south of Bartica. Enjoy breathtaking views and delicious meals.

US\$90 / GY\$18,000

Includes souvenir t-shirt & cap or bag

Bus Excursion to East Berbice, across new Berbice River Bridge

Thursday, 29 July, 2010

Come for a relaxing ride along Guyana's east coast and enjoy picturesque views of the Ancient County.

US\$40 / GY\$8,000

Includes meals

The Buxton Ball

At the Georgetown Club

Friday, 30 July, 2010

Come meet, greet and enjoy an exquisite taste of fine dining and musical entertainment. The table is set for a 3-course dinner and an assortment of exotic local and foreign drinks. Music will be provided by the vintage Yoruba Singers and popular DJ.

US\$50 / GY\$10,000

Souvenirs (US\$)

Magazine	\$ 5
T-shirt	\$10
Polo Shirt	\$15

Reservations for the Baganara Trip, Berbice Excursion and Buxton Ball must be received, with payment, by 30 June, 2010. Please make your cheque or money order payable to Lorna Campbell, and send to her at 454 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207, USA.

Copies of the registration form can also be obtained online from:

www.buxtonguyana.net

For more information, kindly contact Lorna Campbell at:

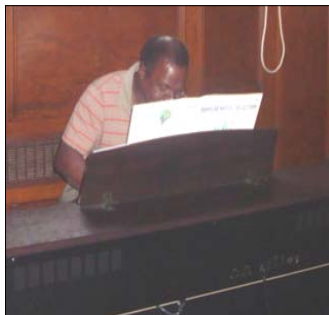
E-mail: lorna@buxtonguyana.net

Phone: **718-342-0040**

A Significant Event

by Dr. Owen Ifill

“The show had its share of logistical issues and because of that, how it was presented may not have been the most organized or eloquent fashion. It was, however, a significant event....”



Mr. Errol Cockfield (“Bread”) rendering “Take Five” on the piano at the 170th Anniversary Show in Brooklyn, NY

While there were considerable problems in the logistics of the New York Show, I think its content was significant. Though what was delivered was not presented in the most eloquent of ways, because of kinks and hitches, it was, however, important.

The show started way behind schedule (two hours to be exact) because of personnel related issues, and for that we have to again apologize. It opened with a prayer to the God we were given. Then, there was the pouring of the libation for the acknowledgment of our ancestors and the Gods we were made to forget. Ritual drumming ended the ceremony.

Next, there was the recital of the poem, “The Journey”, written by Ras Jerry Hope and done by Vashti Cockfield. It traced the journey of our forebears from Africa to South America and then to Buxton proper. It related the pain, death, broken dreams and the ultimate redemption of our ancestors with the purchase of Buxton.

A skit followed in which the Buxton Purchase was dramatized. It highlighted the doubts, the confusion, the excitement and the wonderment that must have preceded the acquisition and the planning to achieve it. Horace Azore, who scripted the play, Quintyn Bacchus, Mboya Wood and Remington London were the principal actors.

The Buxton Battle Song was then sung by all. I may be wrong, but I have no knowledge of any other village in Guyana that has a battle song. Ours was reportedly written by Ivy Jacobs and George Younge who were prominent teachers in the village, in their time. This is one of the many firsts that Buxton boasts as the Premier Village.

Next, there was a piano solo by Errol Cockfield. He performed the jazz classic “Take Five”. Jazz, being a musical outgrowth of the Black experience, is as much ours as it is Black America’s. We are, after all, branches of the self-same tree; members of the same family. Our struggles, though different, in many ways were the same. The symbolism of the song I thought was profound. He also performed another piece later in the show.

The history and importance of the Buxton Scholarship was outlined by Barbara

Thomas-Holder and Hazel Azore. It facilitated the academic achievement of many who went on to become prominent leaders in fields as varied as education, government and social and hard sciences.

Kofi Kwayana performed two songs, and he actually has a Reggae CD out. I thought it was both important and fitting that a member of Elder Eusi Kwayana’s family graced us with their presence and participation. What Elder Eusi has given to Buxton over the years is incalculable. The event, I believe, would have been incomplete without a Kwayana.

Ras Michael Jeune did two poetry pieces, and then there was a Queh-Queh and Nancy session with accompanying drumming. This was followed by a “Gaff and Laff” session in which there was light Buxton banter about false names and such.

The show closed with a group reading of “Buxton Rising!” which is a poem that calls Buxtonians to “arms” to make Buxton, Buxton again.

Again, the show had its share of logistical issues and because of that, how it was presented may not have been the most organized or eloquent fashion. It was, however, a significant event, in my view.

*Buxton-Friendship
In*

Print & Memory

Compiled by Eusi Kwayana

\$20

Additional fee for
Postage

Celebrating Our Heritage!

170th Anniversary

1840

2010

Purchase of Buxton



Charting A New Development Path

24 July - 1 August, 2010

The
Buxton-Friendship
Express

454 Vermont Street
Brooklyn, NY 11207

Contributing Writers

Dr. Owen Ifill
Francis Yvonne Jackson
Barbara Thomas-Holder
Mboya Wood

Editors

Lorna Campbell
718-342-0040
E-mail: lorna@buxtonguyana.net
Dr. C. Quintin Bacchus
202-538-1261
E-mail: quintin@buxtonguyana.net

Visit us
on the Web at:

www.buxtonguyana.net

On Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/Buxton Village Guyana](http://www.facebook.com/Buxton_Village_Guyana)

CIMBUX, INC.

Invites You to It's

SATURDAY EVENING MEMORIAL DANCE

May 29, 2010

WISDOM BANQUET HALL

5401 Annapolis Road

Bladensburg, MD 20710



Music by **BOBBY'S MUSIC MACHINE**

DJ LION

Ticket Donation: \$20 More at the Door

George Hinds: 240-381-5190 Jude Greene: 240-988-4941

Horace Azore: 240-508-6388 Keith Easton: 240-601-3892

Gladstone Marcus: 240-486-6341

Come Enjoy Good Company, Great Dining & Dancing
for a Worthy Cause!

Proceeds to benefit Scholarship, Social & Cultural Programs

BUXTON VILLAGE 170th Anniversary CELEBRATION

Celebrating our Heritage! Charting a New Development Path!

Saturday	July 24, 2010	WELCOME RECEPTION
Sunday	July 25, 2010	CHURCH SERVICES * ROAD RACE * SPORTS DAY
Monday	July 26, 2010	GUIDED VILLAGE TOURS * OPENING CEREMONY / CULTURAL SHOW
Tuesday	July 27, 2010	DAY TRIP: EXOTIC BAGANARA ISLAND RESORT, ESSEQUIBO
Wednesday	July 28, 2010	CHILDREN'S LITERARY CAMP * VILLAGE SYMPOSIUM EVENING
Thursday	July 29, 2010	BUS EXCURSION TO BERBICE
Friday	July 30, 2010	SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUMMIT * DINNER DANCE & FASHION SHOW
Saturday	July 31, 2010	HEALTH ARTS & CAREER FAIR * MARKET DAY CAMP FIRE * LIBATION CEREMONY * JAMBOREE
Sunday	August 1, 2010	INTERFAITH SERVICE * DRUMMING & FOOD FEST * HEALTH FAIR