

GCA AWARDS CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011
BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL

BY INVITATION ONLY

2011 GCA HONOREES

HARRY WHITTAKER, DONALD LOCKE, JOHN CRISWICK TO RECEIVE TOP HONORS

The Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. today announces its 2011 Guyana Folk Festival awards as the organization celebrates its tenth anniversary. Our decade of cultural celebrations has covered many lifetimes of Guyanese creativity.

Since 2001 we have celebrated the outstanding contributions of individuals with strong creative gifts and as cultural enablers to the Guyanese society in the 20th century. This year the awards acclaim creators and enablers who demonstrate various features of the Guyanese culture. Their accomplishments are in diverse fields exhibited across Guyana and its Diaspora in the Arts; Education; Community Service; Journalism; and as Cultural Enablers.

An Annual Event: The award ceremony is on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at Borough Hall in Brooklyn, New York under the 2011 theme of - Aal body, waan body. Space limitations require that invitations be issued to Awardees and their special guests.

Our awards celebrate outstanding contributors in four designations. Individuals, organizations and commercial

entities are accorded the Guyana Cultural Association Award. Youth awardees are either born in Guyana, or have at least one parent who is Guyanese, or of Guyanese descent. Individuals are acknowledged with the Exemplary Award; Guyanese nationals receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Harry Whittaker is the Lifetime Achievement Awardee on the 10th Anniversary. As a musician he embodied all of the award's selection criteria. His work enhanced Guyanese society; creative actions have remained unsurpassed decades later and thus stand as exemplary models that are inspiring. They have the deep resonance to compel discerning scholars and culturalists to acknowledge and preserve his artistry.

In all of the endeavors of our honorees we see intrinsic behaviors of Guyanese.

We are filled with pride, great pride.

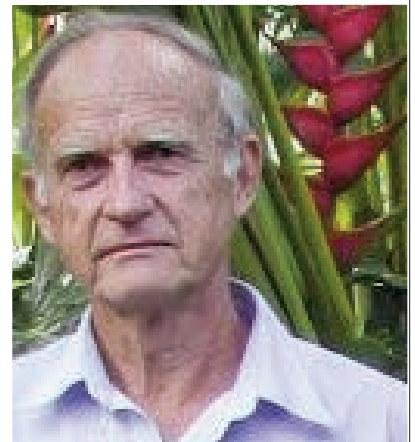
Background:

Contemporary Guyana was built by people who defined a common culture from a wide range of forbearers and circumstances. The indigenous people, today called Amerindians, were enslaved by European colonists starting in the 1600s. The Dutch, French and English, in succession, established plantations in a colonial period that lasted hundreds of years. The savagery of slavery was extended to Africans who made transatlantic journeys mainly from the coast of West Africa.

200 years later the colonial plantation masters replaced the African slaves with indentured laborers. The first group was brought from Portugal. Over a period of nearly eight decades the indentureship continued with the arrival of Chinese and mostly Indians from the Asian continent. Barbadians and other West Indians were also among the indentured labor class transported to the Guyana coastland. They have all forged the Guyanese culture 🍏

Ronald Lammy

L-R:
Harry Whittaker,
Donald Locke,
John Criswick



HONOR LIST 18 TO BE HONORED FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

WE RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS, ENTITIES & YOUTH WHO HAVE EXCELLED ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF DISCIPLINES, INCLUDING THE ARTS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MEDICAL CARE, SPORTS & EDUCATION.

- Claudius Agrippa - Arts - Youth
- Oswald Bobb - Cultural Enabler
- Al Creighton, Jr. - Cultural Education
- John Criswick - Cultural Education - Exemplary Award
- Rida Fatima - Community Service - Youth
- Ronald Nigel Fanfair - Cultural Enabler
- Sherif Fraser - Community Service
- Hugh Hamilton - Journalism
- Sandra Harte - Community Service
- Haynes Foundation - Community Service
- Donald Locke - Arts - Exemplary Award
- Claire Patterson-Monah - Cultural Enabler
- Nona Permaul - Arts
- Rohan Sagar - Cultural Education
- Narine Dat Sookram - Community Service
- Harry Whittaker - Arts - Lifetime Achievement
- The Young Acolytes Symphonic Steel Orchestra - Arts - Youth
- Syed A. Zaidi - Community Service - Youth



Claudius Agrippa



Oswald Bobb



Al Creighton Jr.



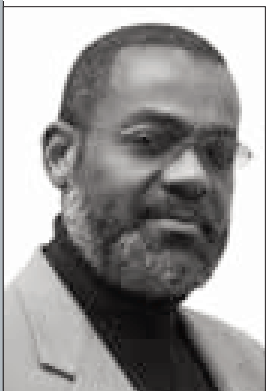
Rida Fatima



Ronald Fanfair



Sherif Fraser



Hugh Hamilton



Sandra Harte



Patrick & Paul Haynes



Claire Patterson-Monah



Rohan Sagar



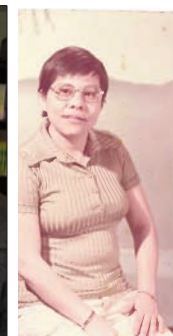
Narine Dat



Young Acolytes Steel Orchestra



Syed A. Zaidi



Nona Permaul