

Thunder in Guyana

The story of Janet Rosenberg is almost too fantastic to be believed. This nearly-50-year-long story of romance, politics and international intrigue is all too true, however, and is chronicled in the documentary film *Thunder in Guyana*, which will have its world premiere in Schenectady—new home to a growing community of Guyanese—at Proctor's Theatre Saturday night.

It's the love story of two idealistic young radicals, the Chicago-born Rosenberg and Cheddi Jagan, a

native of what was then called British Guiana on South America's northern coast. They met in Chicago in 1942, fell in love, married against the stiff opposition of their Jewish and Hindu families (Rosenberg's grandmother had a stroke) and set off for the British colony to make a socialist revolution.

Folks who called themselves socialist were persona non grata during the Cold War. While Jagan and Rosenberg (and their multiracial People's Progressive Party) became the most important political figures in Guyana—and were elected to power under the colonial system twice—they also faced arrest, repression and the active opposition of such world figures as Winston Churchill and John F. Kennedy. (At one point, the British press tagged Rosenberg the "Second Eva Peron.") A happy ending finally arrived with free and fair elections in the 1990s. (You read correctly, *the 1990s*.) First Jagan, and then Rosenberg served in turn as president of Guyana. (She was the first American-born woman to be elected president of a foreign country.)



PNC Won't Bow To Will Of The Electorate

The Guyana's National Congress (PNC), which was recently defeated at the December 17 polls, is holding a rally and will not bow to the will of the electorate.

In a statement today afternoon, the senior opposition party said it "regretted and will not accept the outcome of the final results" of the vote.

The PNC issued the press release after it failed to win the High Court case to postpone the results. Mr. Jagan said during the meeting that the results declared by the Elections Commission, which were "final, unalterable and final," were "unjust, unrepresentative and unfair."

Janet Jagan Is Guyana's New President

—Calls for unity in the continuing task of national reconstruction



Suzanne Wasserman. Wasserman is the still-living Janet Rosenberg's cousin; she's also associate director of the Gotham Center for New York City History, and is considered an expert on the Lower East Side. (She's a consultant on Russell Crowe's latest project, a period film set in 1930s New York.) *Thunder in Guyana* is Wasserman's first film.

Thunder in Guyana will be presented at Proctor's Theatre (432 State St., Schenectady), Saturday (May 3) at 8 PM. There will be a 7 PM "Theatre Talk" session with the filmmaker. Wasserman will also lead a question-and-answer session with the audience following the screening. Admission to both the screening and the talk is free. For more information, call 346-6204.

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