

## The Rodney Family

Guyana has lost another jewel.

My early memories of Andaiye are vivid and poignant. Almost every teenager wanted to be like her - beautiful, bright and always fashionably dressed riding her bicycle. On her return to Guyana, she became a close family friend and one of Shaka's, Kanini's and Asha's favorite Aunties. We spent many weekends with her parents, Uncle Frank and Aunt Hazel, enjoying music, food, and just 'ol' talking. These were occasions when I saw her at her most relaxed and authentic self.

She is remembered by Shaka, Kanini and Asha for her honest, dry, almost caustic wit. Shaka recalls her as a tower of strength from which he could draw from whenever dealing with his own challenges and was comforted by the knowledge that she was always there for him.

Her heart was huge ("big big big" as we Guyanese would say) and her loyalty immense. It was this sense of humor and sense of family that made Kanini and Asha's return to Guyana, in 2005, a true celebration of Walter's life, rather than an unnerving experience. Andaiye and Walter were founding members of the WPA and were both dedicated to the emancipation of the working class. Andaiye used her privilege to protect those, like Walter, who wanted better for the people of Guyana. She was also a resounding voice for women of color and working class women through her organization Red Thread and other community activities.

Andaiye was a powerful woman who deeply cared for others more than herself. She was Aunty to many - a responsibility she took seriously. Asha actually used to think her name was Aunty Aunt Daiye.

We are missing you. It is hard to remember a time that you were not present. Your wisdom, your compassion, your wit, your grit, your humour, your power. Your resilience. Your bravery. Your voice. We love you and are better for you having loved us.

May she take greetings to our ancestors and laugh along with them when she hears Shaka's prayer that "her spirit walks and talks with us".

Rest in peace (Aunty) Andaiye.

The Rodney Family: Pat, Shaka, Kanini and Asha