

## Nigel Loncke

### Candidate for New York State 31st Assembly Seat

**N**igel Loncke is a member of the famous Loncke family that has made an invaluable contribution to Guyana and the international community. Their biographies will take up several pages and every story will inspire and motivate people. John Loncke was an international tenor singer while Francis Percival Loncke was one of the first Guyanese to be awarded an LRSM in Music.

Agatha Loncke LRSM taught English at the prestigious Queens College in Guyana while John Victor Loncke LRSM is on the engineering faculty at the University of Guyana. Patricia Loncke LRSM has composed more than 100 works for the piano. Who has not heard of Dr. Joycelynn Loncke, author, academician and musician? Dr. Loncke is a household name in the world of music and has broken new ground when she co-authored with Herman Snijders the book 'One hundred years of Classical Music in the Guianas.' What all this means is that Nigel Loncke has big shoes to fill!

There is no reason why Nigel cannot soar like the other members of his distinguished family. He has the drive, determination and ambition to do well. Nigel was born in Brooklyn, New York. His dad is Pastor Dennis Loncke who hails from Guyana and his mom is Pastor Roslyn Loncke who was born in the United States. Nigel said that his parents met when they were introduced to each other by a Guyanese couple. Roslyn persuaded Dennis to accompany her to church and before long there were wedding bells! Nigel has three sisters and two brothers. The eldest brother Carlton is in the US Navy and the family is proud of him.

Nigel attended PS 42 in Far Rockaway after which he went to Pilgrim's Christian Academy and then he articulated to Beach Channel High School. He loved technology and remembers his first computer very well. Nigel says, 'my dad bought me a Tandy computer and I did something you are not supposed to do. I opened up the computer to see how the parts were connected and then I put

at a well-known pharmacy. He worked there for a number of years and felt that he had to move on as he wanted to do better. In 2004 Nigel turned his attention to mortgages but he saw the effects of the collapse of the industry due to greed. He knew that this was not what he wanted. Nigel then went to work for his dad Dennis who was a master carpenter. At the age of sixteen Dennis had built a house for his mom in Guyana.

Nigel has always been impressed with the love and caring that his dad has shown toward the family. A memorable event occurred when Dennis took his children to a music store and asked them to choose a

Center was to thrive. But he had to reach out for resources. This meant that he had to do some research. He says, 'after my research I found my way

that there is a buzz in the area and that people want change. 'Things are starting to happen,' says Nigel. He continues, 'People are

demanding a new leadership, a new vision. I will engage everyone and involve people in the process. I will bring the common touch to politics.'

Apart from his interest in politics Nigel is a very spiritual person. This is understandable since his father Dennis and mother Roslyn are both Pastors at the Arverne Pilgrim Church in Far Rockaway. It is heartening to note that the Community Center that Nigel founded has continued to do selfless service in the community. James and Shona Duncan have inspired Nigel to broaden his understanding of community service. Nigel loves to travel and he has visited St. Kitts, Antigua, the



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to Congressman's Gregory Meeks' office.' Nigel was guided to the right places and he got introduced to the Chief of Staff, Robert Simmons. In due course Simmons showed Nigel the dynamics of politics from a federal level and the knowledge was useful.

The Community Center offered education for job preparation to the young and computer literacy classes were also given to the elderly. Nigel then went to work as a Community

Bahamas and of course to Guyana and these visits gave him a better idea on the need to stay focused and be ready to serve.

Nigel is a deeply committed to his District that includes the Rockaways, JFK Airport and parts of South Ozone Park. He would like to address issues that lead to wage disparities, homelessness, options in education, after school programs, employment and facilities for women, among others. Nigel thanks his parents for instilling sound moral values in him as well as his grandmother Ruth Austin for her wisdom. He is also inspired by Dr. Joycelynn Loncke who has blazed the trail with her many talents. Nigel says that we should forget past differences, work together, and build for the future. He is committed to making Assembly District 31 a proud and happy community. We wish Nigel and his family all the best in the future.



Nigel has pledged to bring much-needed resources to Assembly District 31

it back together. I did get into trouble for doing that!' But this sparked Nigel's interest in computer technology and it became his favorite subject in school. Ms. White, the computer teacher, was impressed!

Nigel was an all-round and active student. He was involved in basketball, the track team, the marching band, the gospel chorus, and he played the piano and swam as well. In his final year in High School Nigel was promoted as Assistant Manager

musical instrument. The music that came as a result made the family happy.

When the construction industry collapsed Nigel decided to work on one of his dreams. He opened a community center in Far Rockaway. This involved paperwork, money and construction but through hard work 'Arvene by the Bay' Community Center was established in 2008.

Nigel realized that funding was essential if the Community