

2014 GCA HONOREES

SHINING LIGHTS & CONNECTORS BUILDING FOUNDATIONS IN SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY

Ronald H. Lammy, Chair, GCA of NY Awards Committee

Our anniversary theme in 2014 is, on one level, within the tradition of celebrating the creativity of our Guyanese heritage. We Bridgin' recognizes an understated factor in our lives for decades and thus raises our awareness of how we have conducted ourselves. We see through the Bridgin' lens what we have done and should do to make the conditions better.

There is an indirect prodding in Bridgin' for us to address the political and racial challenges that have grown and bother nearly all of us. This next level of attentiveness to our way of life portends well as we use our arts and cultural attributes collaboratively.

The span of accomplishments of this year's Awardees shows the capabilities that Guyanese have developed and displayed effectively in the homeland and in the Diaspora. Many of our honored compatriots have worked not only as connectors, but to build foundations in service to the society. Most are unsung in our dear land.

This year's Awardees are shining lights with accomplishments in education - music, social sciences, and pedagogy; performing and visual arts; aviation; and contemporary media. Everyone in, her or his, pursuit of excellence has made a mark for which Guyanese can be proud.

We note in the achievements of our Lifetime and Exemplary Awardees - Patricia Jordon Langford, Dr. Marjorie Jones and Dr. Moses Telford, respectively - decades-long walks and actions of crossing racial, social, and political boundaries to attain outcomes beneficial to all who needed to be served. They engendered feelings of trust in them and their initiatives to attain the worthy goals they pursued which enriched the Guyanese society. All true to the theme.

Ronald H Lammy

Chair, GCA of NY Awards Committee.

The GCA Award identifies talented people and enabling entities to acknowledge their contribution to society and to encourage others by their sterling examples. These may be individuals or an entity.

The Awards also illuminate the tenets of Guyanese heritage that guided the honorees to success.

They are in four categories and presented in five groups in 2014.

Patricia Jordon-Langford possesses a strong sense of civic responsibility and has dedicated her life to contributing to her communities in Guyana and its Diaspora. Her philanthropic endeavors have been focused on education and mentoring and the impact on youth has been outstanding. Over the last twelve years she provided scholarships and mentored fourteen college students. The last one graduated in 2014. Ms Jordon-Langford has for 22 years had a strong commitment to the empowerment of fellow Guyanese. She has been engaged in many successful projects of benefit to the indigent and abused - women and children. Recognition of her prodigious accomplishments has come in numerous awards from various sectors of the society. GCA is most proud to name her as its 2014 Lifetime Awardee.

Dr. Marjorie Jones is a model of excellence who has dedicated her life to moving Guyanese "onward and upward" through intelligence and knowledge to confront fear and ignorance. She is an outstanding educator because of her balance of passion, brainpower and workable solutions. One such had a seminal effect in Guyana. It shows her ability to transcend political par-

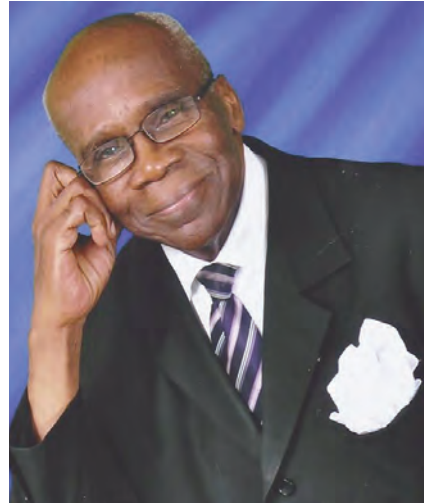
titions to the benefit of all Guyanese. The current government of Guyana has capitalized on Dr Jones' momentous contribution as an enabler. In May 2014, Dr Jones witnessed the graduation of thirteen multi-racial Guyanese at Lesley University with Masters Degrees. She had enabled that achievement by applying her superior skills in cultural humility - knowing how and getting the work done. Unsung in her homeland, she is recognized with the Exemplary Award.

Dr Moses Telford has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Exemplary Award. He is being recognized for an extraordinary career in music education in Guyana and its Diaspora. His teaching career at the secondary level in Berbice and at the Teacher's Training College in Georgetown was influential with remarkable results. Dr Telford's professional contributions and achievements were impactful in rural and urban Guyana; in London, England; and in American metropolitan cities. Guyana's rich cultural and multi-ethnic heritage can be discerned as an inspiration from his numerous academic and other accomplishments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 GCA HONOREES



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Patricia Jordon-Langford



EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT
Dr. Moses Telford



EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT
Dr. Marjorie Jones



GCA AWARD
Selwyn Collins



GCA AWARD
Dr. Carmen Bovell



GCA AWARD
Col. Lawrence London



GCA AWARD
Bernadette Persaud



GCA AWARD
Adrian Dutchin



GCA AWARD
Major Russell C.M. Edu



GCA AWARD
Julio Thijs



GCA AWARD
Lionel Augustus Lachmansingh



GCA AWARD
Grace Aneiza Ali

2014 FOLK FESTIVAL SEASON

2014 GCA HONOREES

SHINING LIGHTS & CONNECTORS BUILDING FOUNDATIONS IN SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY

Ronald Lammy, Committee Chair

Dr. Carmen Bovell has had outstanding accomplishments in Education and its pedagogy, and philanthropic activity in Guyana for over three decades. She is a Guyana Teacher's Training College graduate and a Fulbright Scholar. As a Founding member and a president of Guyanese Assisting in Development, she worked to address the social needs of indigent school children and the elderly. Donations also went to children with disabilities. The organization adopted the Ithaca Primary School in New Amsterdam. Dr. Bovell actively participated in a partnership with the Ministry of Education in an annual essay competition for various age groups.

Selwyn Collins is a talk show host and author who is recognized for establishing a contemporary media space to give access to a broad spectrum of voices. On his show, Guyanese and Caribbean nationals are given respect and acknowledged for their brilliance, courage, determination, academic, and intellectual excellence. His "Conversations" have been conducted with guests from the exemplary and notable to the man on the street with a message and common sense wisdom, and the youth with a mission to make a difference in the community. Selwyn has been a trailblazing innovator whose forum showcases Guyana's multi-ethnic heritage.

Adrian Dutchin is recognized for his accomplishments in the Performing Arts. He has an impressive portfolio of performances within the Guyanese and Caribbean Diaspora. A special feature of his career as a Guyanese entertainer is his ability to have several duet-like performances with his contemporaries of different genre.

Norma Ramalho-Bacchus is a 2014 honoree for her outstanding achievements in the performing arts, and for her dedication to sharing her talents in her quest to ensure that this aspect of our cultural heritage is retained. In 1966, she was accorded the distinctive honor of participating in the selection of Guyana's National Anthem. It was her duty to play the piano for all of the entries from which the final selection was made by the judging panel.



GCA AWARD
Michael Currica



BUSINESS ENABLER
Demerara Distillers Ltd.



GCA AWARD
Norma Ramalho-
Bacchus

Lionel Lachmansingh is an honoree for his pioneering enablement of a new group and fostering of musicianship in the performing arts. As founder of Bumble and The Saints, a 1960s popular music band led by the innovative guitarist and composer, Colin Wharton, Mr. Lachmansingh helped elevate a budding era of creativity. The success of his initiative, whose goal was to encourage the inclusiveness of young musicians, was inspired by Guyana's rich multi-ethnic heritage.

2014 GCA HONOREES

Julio Thijs is being recognized for his outstanding accomplishments in the art of stilt dancing and continuous efforts to broadly propagate its artistry. He is the protégée of Masquerader, Boysie Sage whom he credits with this unique skill that he has perfected over a span of forty-eight years. He displays a devotion to his talented presentations which are representative of the inspiration he derives from Guyana's rich cultural heritage. He has returned to Guyana to expand the art form by conducting many workshops and teaching the art of stilt dancing to young people across the nation.

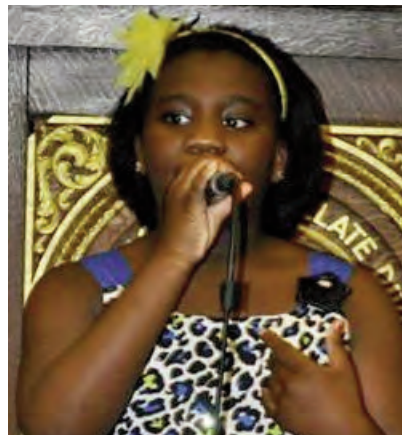
Grace Aneiza Ali is recognized for a significant accomplishment in contemporary media. The online magazine OF NOTE is leading edge in its application of the arts as catalytic mechanism for activism and social change. The use of multi-media to portray the artistic and cultural productions of Guyana and Guyanese in the Diaspora is most noteworthy.

Major Russell C.M. Edun has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Award in recognition of a pioneering career in aviation in Guyana. It spans two decades with the Guyana Airways and the Guyana Defense Force. Major Edun's service in the Air Force was ground breaking leaving a record of excellence. Later, he joined the commercial North American Airlines and in 2004, he became the first pilot to land a B757/767 in Guyana. Currently he is an Adjunct Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, his alma mater and a First Officer of United Parcel Service, where he flies the B747-400 globally.

Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence H. London receives the Award for an extraordinary career in aviation in Guyana. Mr. London's professional contributions and achievements were impactful across the geography of Guyana both in the Guyanese military and commercial sectors. The two industries were emergent in the newly independent Guyana and his service spanned two decades from 1970. His proficiency in the Air Force was foundation-setting with remarkable results. In November 2013, the Guyana Defense Force main hangar and Air Corps Headquarters was renamed the "Air Station London" in his honor. Colonel Larry London holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's Degree from Embry Riddle University of Aeronautics.



YOUTH AWARD
Roger David Ng-A-Qui



YOUTH AWARD
Kamiyah Parchment

Michael Currica receives the GCA 2014 Award for his influential and substantive role in scoring and arranging Guyanese compositions in private and governmental endeavors. His transcription skills have helped to preserve notable Guyanese compositions from folk music to opera. The wide span of genres he covered defines the many aspects of Guyana's rich multicultural heritage that inspired him. Blooming during the early post independence period Mr. Currica earned the high regard of his mentors and his contemporaries.

Cloyette Harris-Stoute receives the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Award for her outstanding accomplishment in contemporary media. GuyaneseGirlsRock.com was "created to inspire, motivate and celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of Guyanese women across the globe". The successes of these women are showcased as examples for girls to follow in pursuit of their dreams. The varied profiles of Guyanese women are attributed to Guyana's multi-ethnic heritage.

Bernadette Indira Persaud receives the Guyana Cultural Association award for her superior contributions and outstanding accomplishments in the visual arts. Ms. Persaud has held exhibitions in the USA, UK, Canada, India, Mauritius, Suriname and the Caribbean. She taught at the Burrowes School of Art (1991-1999), and the University of Guyana (2000-2007). Her paintings and essays on art have been widely represented, both at home and abroad, and in several private and corporate collections. Ms Persaud has expressed "great satisfaction and pleasure to know that my work has been able to transcend/bridge both political and ethnocultural divisions, so fraught in our society -at home."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 GCA AWARDS HONOREES

Youth:

Roger David Ng-A-Qui has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Youth Award. He is being recognized for his superior scholastic accomplishments at Phillips Exeter Academy and current pursuit of academic excellence at Yale University. GCA especially wishes to acknowledge his multi-lingual studies and fluency coupled with community service.

Kamiyah Parchment has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Youth Award. GCA recognizes her honor student status and encourages her to continue to uphold it in pursuit of academic excellence. The organization particularly acknowledges her exceptionally gifted vocal performances.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 GODFREY CHIN PRIZE FOR HERITAGE JOURNALISM WINNERS

Vibert Cambridge, Chair, Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism

It is my pleasure to announce the 2014 winners of the Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism. The winners represent qualities that Godfrey Chin admired and encouraged. He enjoyed doing research, especially collecting data—oral histories, photographs, songs, and “nylon.” He was passionate about sharing. He used all available and accessible communication channels to tell the Guyanese story.

The first prize winner of the 2014 Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism is **Gaiutra Bahadur**. The blog for her internationally acclaimed book *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture* is a wonderful contemporary example of the type of research that Godfrey Chin admired and encouraged.

There are two second prize winners: **Dimitri Alicock** (the blog *Oh Beautiful Guyana*) and **Vidyaratha Kissoon** (the blog *Thoughts of a mini-bus traveler*). These winners resonate with Godfrey Chin’s enthusiasm for using any available medium—the mural, the banner, the collage, the newspaper article, the book, the photographic exhibition, the radio program, the CD, the DVD—to promote and to celebrate the commonalities and “nylon” that connect all Guyanese.

Godfrey Chin was a master storyteller. He preferred wit rather than invective. The third-prize winner is **Ingrid Griffith** for *Demerara Gold*. This pioneering one-woman show has been described as “oral journalism.” Ingrid Griffith has attracted critical attention as an important voice in the telling of the Guyanese story.

Please join us in extending heartfelt “Congratulations” to the 2014 winners of the Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism.



FIRST PRIZE
Gaiutra Bahadur



Dimitri Alicock



Vidyaratha Kissoon

SECOND PRIZE



THIRD PRIZE
Ingrid Griffith