

2015 GCA HONOREES

WE RECOGNIZE THE CREATIVE GIFTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND INFLUENCERS IN A SHOWCASE OF LITERARY, PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISES ALONG WITH COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS AND CULTURAL ENABLERS

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

Celebrating our Guyanese heritage is an acknowledgement of its influence on our present condition. Its attributes can be discerned in the trajectory from the past. We can map where we are, what we are doing, and envisage a future, or not. These elements are profoundly visible in the profiles of the 2015 GCA Awardees. In them, we recognize the creative gifts of individuals and influencers in a showcase of literary, performing and visual artistes along with community activists and cultural enablers. They present a panoply of creativity evoking distinct Guyanese sensitivities. Their individual craftsmanship is physical and intellectual. Concepts are transformed into impactful reality. The substance of their contributions to society is evident by notable accomplishments.

The Youth Honorees represent stage and movie acting and award winning youth leadership; fashion designing and choreography “intertwined”, dramatist; Maypole dancing; and academic excellence, authorship and community service.. These four progeny give every indication of very bright lives ahead.

The millennial and the mature Honorees display a cumulative, encyclopedic level of work. Video-performance is story telling that expresses personal and community feelings; communal leadership enables effective education and increases village pride; dance and choreography are taught based on modern techniques and music influences including Jazz and Caribbean genre; arts journalism is presented from a balanced, independent stance on the arts and literature giving voice to the underrepresented; sculpting creativity is

demonstrated through ancestral images and present-day metaphors; photographic visual artistry is used as a bridge to connect cultural identity; sensitivity to dissimilar musical ambiance in a shared space enabled a collaboration for mutual inter-ethnic satisfaction.

Noel Denny, Exemplary Awardee has demonstrated visionary leadership and action by forging consensus with fellow Guyanese from five High School Alumni organizations. Active in various Toronto Caribbean groups he was motivated to support homeland schools, too. “This gave rise to the Last Lap concept” explains Mr. Denny. The Lime has become a desired destination for celebrating Guyana’s traditions as envisioned by culturalist Noel Denny. It is perhaps the largest such event of Guyanese diversity.

Ron Robinson is the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. He has the unique distinction of serving more years in Guyanese broadcasting and theatre than anyone else: half a century, unmatched and counting. He is an actor, a writer, a producer and a director. Mr. Robinson is a performing artiste who is a talker and a doer extraordinaire.

Ron Robinson has pursued and lived his interests. His multi-faceted life is revelatory as I describe his accomplishments in the profile. He is a Mason – a lodge man; a scout master; a racing car driver; a youth organization leader; and an independent businessman. His successes in these areas add to his distinction as an arts and culture man whose imprint is much greater than his unassuming demeanor conveys.

Our Awards Committee is honored to have played a role in recognizing this illustrious group.

2015 FOLK FESTIVAL SEASON: ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 GCA HONOREES



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Ron Robinson



EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT
Noel Denny



GCA AWARD
Damali Abrams



GCA AWARD
Lorna P. Campbell



GCA AWARD
Ameena Gafoor



GCA AWARD
Nadia Jagan



GCA AWARD
Jonathan Locke



GCA AWARD
Deo Persaud



GCA AWARD
Keisha Scarville



GCA AWARD
Main Street Art Group



BUSINESS ENABLER
Star Party Rental

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 GCA YOUTH HONOREES

CELEBRATING GUYANESE YOUTH WHO
HAVE MADE ACHIEVEMENT AND POSITIVE
LEADERSHIP THEIR CENTRAL GOAL

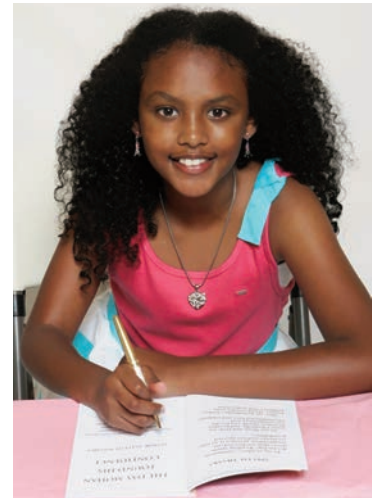
The GCA Awards salute the contributions by youth and especially, we acknowledge individuals from Guyana who enrich their communities and Guyanese society



YOUTH AWARD
Abigail Brower



YOUTH AWARD
Mwanza Mainza Glenn



YOUTH AWARD
Anna Lee Willabus



YOUTH AWARD
St. Albans Episcopal Church - Guyana Rally of the
Nations (Maypole)

THE 2015 GODFREY CHIN PRIZE FOR HERITAGE JOURNALISM

Vibert Cambridge, Chair, The Godfrey Chin Prize Committee



The Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism, administered by the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc., was established in 2011. It is inspired by Godfrey Chin's indefatigable efforts to study and to celebrate Guyana's rich cultural heritage and creativity. The prize has been established to encourage and to reward writers whose published works promote understanding and appreciation of the diverse strands of Guyanese heritage and contribute to celebrating the commonalities that connect the people of Guyana.

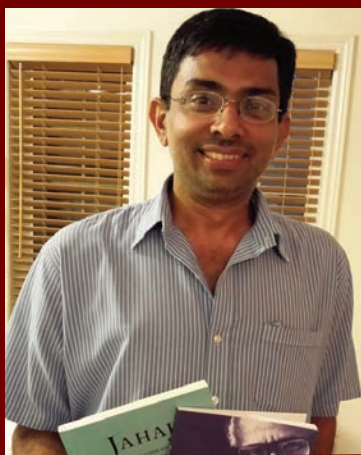
The prize is awarded to the entry that best embodies the spirit, intellect and wit of Godfrey Chin, as well as the core values that GCA considers when determining awards—originality, scope, impact/influence, contribution to harmony, innovation, and creative responses to challenges.

In 2015, through the generous support of the Chin family, \$500.00 will be awarded to the first prize winner, \$300.00 to the second prize winner and \$200.00 to the third prize winners.

THE 2015 GODFREY CHIN PRIZE FOR HERITAGE JOURNALISM AWARDEES



THE WINNERS REPRESENT QUALITIES THAT GODFREY CHIN ADMIRERD AND ENCOURAGED: HE ENJOYED DOING RESEARCH, COLLECTING DATA - ORAL HISTORIES, PHOTOGRAPHS, SONGS & "NYLON"



**FIRST PRIZE
Vidyaratha Kissoon**



**SECOND PRIZE
Dr. Maya Trotz**



**THIRD PRIZE
Akima McPherson & Stanley Greaves**

Congratulations to Vidyaratha Kissoon, Dr. Maya Trotz, Akima McPherson and Stanley Greaves—the 2015 awardees of Godfrey Chin Prizes for Heritage Journalism. This year's awardees have used social media, oral histories, and a newspaper column to engage Guyanese at home and in the diaspora in conversations that help us to better understand who we are, how we live together, and what we can become. This year's first prize was awarded to Vidyaratha Kissoon for his blog *"Thoughts of a minibus traveler."* Dr. Maya Trotz was awarded second prize for the series of videos on *Guyana's science and technology heritage*, featuring her father Dr. Ulric Trotz, a pioneering director at Guyana's Institute of Science and Technology during the 1970s and 1980s. Akima McPherson and Stanley Greaves were awarded third prize for the Stabroek News series *"Conversations on Art."*

The body of work of Vidyaratha Kissoon, Dr. Maya Trotz, Akima McPherson, and Stanley Greaves embody the spirit, intellect, and wit of Godfrey Chin, as well as GCA's core values in determining awards—originality, scope, impact/influence, contribution to harmony, innovation, and creative responses to challenges.

Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism Committee
August 14, 2015