

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

ANNOUNCEMENT

2018 GCA AWARDS HONOREES

Guyana Cultural Association of New York is pleased to announce its annual Awards. They will be presented on August 29th, 2018 to twenty-one honorees in four designations. The guide to their being chosen was our theme: Ma'iupe = Working Together. The Spirit of Solidarity within Guyana's Festival Arts. It is meant to celebrate our various national features which are portrayed in different festivities.

An important criterion in the selection process is a clear connection of the nominee's body of work to the theme. This is an imperative except in the youth category which is defined separately. A review of the accomplishments of the other honorees confirms an array of festival related characteristics. The most prominent ones are in the fields of performing; festival; and visual arts. Other notable features are observed through the work of cultural enablers; an education change-maker; an education enabler; and a cultural performance educator.

The Awards celebration is a salutation to our compatriots who are working with much dedication to enhance our nation.

We congratulate and introduce the 2018 Awardees



Eugene Williams
Lifetime Achievement



Roger Hinds
Exemplary



Bibi Khan Azeez
Performing Arts



Dr. Terrence Blackman
Educator, Change Maker



Winslow Craig
Visual Arts



Jubilanté Cutting
Youth



Steve Douglas
Youth



Anasie Fredericks
Youth



Compton Hodge
Performing Arts



Winfield James
Festival Arts



Guyana United Artists
Visual Arts



Carlo Lachmansingh
Cultural Enabler



Marva Langevine
Youth



Ira Lewis
Cultural Enabler



Aubrey Mann
Performing Arts



Nalia Rahaman
Youth



Pandit Ramlall
Religious, Cultural Enabler



Bernard Ramsey
Creative Arts



Subraj Singh
Writer, Theatre



Natalia Squires
Youth



Unit of Allied Arts
Education Enabler



Con Edison
Cultural Enabler

THE WINNERS THE GODFREY CHIN PRIZE FOR HERITAGE JOURNALISM



Ms. Gaitri Pagrach-Chandra (First Prize)

For "The Wedding" sequences in Kiskadee Days. The sequences were published weekly on Facebook from Friday, May 25, 2018 to Friday, June 29, 2018.

Kiskadee Days is set in a rural Guyanese community. It is a community of ceramic sculptures created by Guyana-born, Netherlands-based, Gaitri Pagrach-Chandra. It is an innovation in Guyanese storytelling. Her sculptures, her "Ladies" - among them are Ajie, Auntie Jessie, Miss Bhagwattie Singh, Bhogie, Bibi, Claudette, Dulari, Ethel, Indrani, Jasoda, Lily-Gal, Mabel, Mavis, Miss Phoenix, Mudder Melrose, Parbati, Pearl, Sitira, and Shanta. The sculptures are the vehicles through which she shares her recollections about her childhood in Guyana's sugar belt. Starting on Friday, May 25, 2018 and ending on Friday, June 29, her ladies provided an authentic, informative, and witty examination of a Hindu wedding in Guyana. These six episodes provided an accessible exploration of a major aspect of Guyanese cultural life. It is a valuable contribution to understanding and harmony. Kiskadee Days embodies all of Godfrey's attributes and advances all the core values GCA considers when determining awards - originality, scope, impact/influence, contribution to harmony, innovation, and creativity.

Please use the link below to visit Kiskadee Days:

https://www.facebook.com/kiskadeedays/?hc_ref=ARQPQIAe6s5PiBnv3Efvr0msxUz8syAlaC3DNNZs6JCWA03HNyWO1mVM51JyzY-8l8w&fref=nf

Ms. Sherene Noble (Second Prize)

For six articles published in the blog: "rootsandeduculture.wordpress.com." 1. Discordance, Philosophies and Education 2. Democracy, Authoritarianism and Reform 3. Scholarships, The Arts and Disinvestment 4. Social Capital, Resistance and Reform. The articles were published between April and June 2018.



According to the nominator, "The series of articles written by Sherene Noble embody the spirit of Godfrey Chin, and the GCA core values, because they raise awareness to, understanding of and appreciation for the intricate and interdependent relationships between culture, the arts, education, and society. They aim at identifying ruptures within these critical relationships, and ways that these could be addressed, such that Guyana's cultural heritage could be preserved and leveraged to shape the type of society that can compete in a technologically advanced global village. One article has a particular emphasis on the importance of the creative arts, a field that has been devalued by successive administrations. It would find favor with Chin, whose life journey was dedicated to being a conduit of creative expression because it encapsulates values that he held dear."

Please follow the links below to access the articles: <https://rootsandeduculture.wordpress.com/2018/06/03/scholarships-the-arts-and-disinvestment/> <https://rootsandeduculture.wordpress.com/2018/05/01/democracy-authoritarianism-and-reform/> <https://rootsandeduculture.wordpress.com/2018/04/04/discordance-philosophies-and-education/> <https://rootsandeduculture.wordpress.com/2018/07/04/social-capital-resistance-and-reform/>

Dr. Owen Ifill (Third Prize)

For the CD Dem Seh. According to Dr. Owen Ifill, "The CD Dem Seh is actually the outgrowth of a book of the same name which was written shortly after the "reign of terror" period in Buxton. It was intended to make Buxtonians laugh again; to lighten the spirit of the Village. It is a book of funny stories I heard and lived, in some cases, growing up in Buxton. One of the reasons the CD was made, is that the book is written in creolese and some people couldn't "read" it. The narrated version has been quite well received in Guyana and hence has been widely pirated.



The stories are Buxton stories. I didn't create them. I couldn't begin to. I would like to think though, that the way they are presented is all my own in my unique form of storytelling.

I believe laughter is one of the most underestimated and underutilized therapeutic modalities available to humans. "Laughter is the best medicine" isn't a joke. Laughter brings people together." (Owen Ifill)

According to the nominator, the CD was aired many times between Dec. 2017 & May 2018 on Guyana's National Communication Network (NCN) and attracted overwhelming audience response ... "the CD definitely carries the wit, creativity and spirit of Godfrey Chin."