

THE SUNSHINE AWARDS

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One Global Family

THEME:

"The Children of Our World"

27TH ANNUAL
SUNSHINE AWARDS

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2015



*Celebrating the Rich Cultural Heritage of the Caribbean
and a Wider Diaspora*

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER AND HOST

Welcome to the 27th Annual SUNSHINE Awards.

Almost 27 years ago this program was founded to recognize excellence in the performing arts, education, science and sports in the Caribbean. Through the years, the canopy of the program has been extended to include Africa, Central America, South America, Europe and India. Tonight, we continue the journey.

On a personal note, my thanks and appreciation to the SUNSHINE Awards team, our families, our corporate sponsors, United Airlines “the preferred airline” of the SUNSHINE Awards Program, Alizé, National Staffing Associates, All Star Motors / Essex County Towing, T & T Express Shipping, Trini Breakfast Shed and VMS Consulting. I thank our patrons and advertisers for your continued support through the years.

I know that you join me wholeheartedly in congratulating and celebrating the 27th Annual SUNSHINE Awards nominees and recipients and the new inductees into the SUNSHINE Awards Hall of Fame.

Thank you and a warm welcome to all!

Sincerely,

Gilman T. Figaro, Sr.

Gilman T. Figaro, Sr.

Chairman/Founder



At
The
Center
Of
Caribbean
Culture

United Airlines, “the preferred airline” of the SUNSHINE Awards Program, is proud to support the 27th Annual SUNSHINE Awards.

As a global airline operating some 5,000 flights a day to 373 airports across six continents, we applaud the SUNSHINE Awards’ mission to recognize excellence in the performing arts, education, science and sports of people of Caribbean, South American, Central American and African heritage.



MILLIE URIARTE

Director, Latin America Onshore & Caribbean Sales

“United flies to 18 Caribbean airports, 10 cities in Central America, 8 cities in South America and 26 in Mexico. So, as you can imagine, every day we are reminded of the beauty of the landscapes, the creativity of the people and the richness of culture throughout the region. For six consecutive years, United has sponsored the SUNSHINE Awards, demonstrating the airline’s commitment to the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage and the art forms.”





United Airlines ", la aerolínea preferida" del Programa de Premios SUNSHINE, se enorgullece en apoyar la 27 Entrega Anual de los Premios SUNSHINE.

Como una línea aérea global que opera alrededor de 5.000 vuelos diarios a 373 aeropuertos en seis continentes, aplaudimos la misión de los Premios SUNSHINE para reconocer la excelencia en las artes interpretativas, la educación, la ciencia y el deporte de la gente del Caribe, América del Sur, América Central y de origen africano.



MILLIE URIARTE

Directora, Ventas para Latinoamérica y el Caribe para United

“United ofrece vuelos a 18 aeropuertos en el Caribe, 10 ciudades en Centroamérica, 8 ciudades en Sudamérica, y 26 en México. Así es, como se puede imaginar, todos los días nos acordamos de la belleza de los paisajes, la creatividad de la gente y la riqueza cultural que se extiende por toda la región. Por seis años consecutivos, United ha patrocinado los premios SUNSHINE, demostrando el compromiso que tiene la aerolínea con la preservación y celebración de la herencia cultural y las artes”



Nikki Crosby (Co-Host)



Errol Fabien (Co-Host)



Dr. Hollis Chalkdust Liverpool
Host, Sunshine Awards Hall Of Fame

Presenters

- Millie Uriarte.....United Airlines Director, Caribbean and Latin American Sales
- Don BobbRadio Personality
- Ricky LordCEO, All Star Motors and Essex County Towing
- Dr. Harold RobertsonDiplomat & Former Consul General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- Karl RodneyPublisher, New York Carib News
- Steven CharlesCEO of Trini Breakfast Shed

Gianna Figaro-Sterling / Fred Lherisson





THE NOMINEES / INDUCTEES FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE AWARDS HALL OF FAME ARE AS FOLLOWS:



Frankie McIntosh - St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

Musician, Arranger, Producer and Teacher

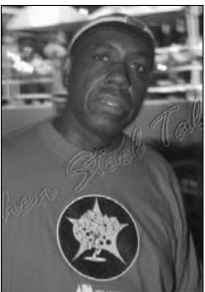
McIntosh, a national of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was introduced to music at the age of 3 by his father, saxophonist, Arthur McIntosh who founded the popular Melo Tones Orchestra Band in the 1950s in St. Vincent. By age 14, Frankie founded the Frankie McIntosh Orchestra which included some of his school mates. In 1968, Frankie migrated to the United States to pursue a degree in music at Brooklyn College in Brooklyn, New York. He also completed a Master's Degree at New York University in 1978. Research has revealed that since 1968, Frankie has produced and arranged over 2,500 songs. Frankie describes his music as the vehicle to sustain his continued growth in the various disciplines of life. He is forever studying the relationship between speech rhythms and melodic rhythms.



Rudy "Two Left" Smith - Europe / Trinidad & Tobago.

Performing Artist – Steelpan

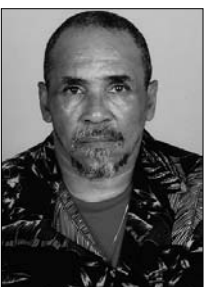
Smith Played his first pan at age six and was influenced by many great panists including Forsythe, Alfred "Sack" Mayers and Alrick "Chick" Springer. By the time he was a teenager he was playing in major competitions and festivals. Through the years he perfected his unique style by studying jazz luminaries: Milt Jackson, Bobby Hutcherson, Oscar Peterson and John Coltrane. Rudy left Trinidad in 1962 and toured Germany, Sweden and Norway where with other Trinidadians that he met in Europe, he formed a band playing Jazz on the steelpan. Today he is regarded as an expert in the world of Jazz and travels the world performing for audiences of various cultural backgrounds.



Leon "Smooth" Edwards - Trinidad & Tobago

Arranger and Producer

Arranger for eight-time Panorama Champion Massy Trinidad All Stars. Smooth started his musical journey playing the pan at age 9. At 16, while still at high school, he joined Trinidad All Stars. Through the years, he developed his talent and skills to become a major force in steel band competitions throughout the Caribbean. He toured Nigeria with Trinidad All Stars in 1977. His greatness as a "smooth" arranger, par excellence, will be forever admired by all music lovers. Today, besides being a pan player and steel-band captain, he lectures to undergrads at the University of Trinidad and Tobago.



Winsford "Joker" deVines - Trinidad & Tobago.

Songwriter

Winsford 'Joker' deVines is undoubtedly one of the greatest, calypso songwriters of our time. His compositions span from political and social commentaries to sex and humor. Over the past 50 years, his compositions have been performed by many calypsonians including the Calypso King of the World, the Mighty Sparrow, Crazy, Baron and Machel Montano. Many of his compositions have become classics of the calypso art form and are now regarded as national treasures of Trinidad and Tobago and by extension the Caribbean.





NOELLE MCKENNA
Brand Manager, Spirits, Kobrand Corporations

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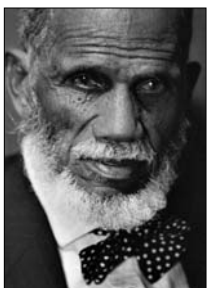


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THE NOMINEES / INDUCTEES FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE AWARDS HALL OF FAME ARE AS FOLLOWS:



Russ Henderson (Posthumously) - Europe / Trinidad & Tobago.

Performing Artist – Piano and Steel band

Russell Audley Ferdinand "Russ" Henderson MBE was a jazz musician on the piano and the steelpan. He is most widely recognized as one of the founding figures of the Notting Hill Carnival in London, United Kingdom. In 2006 Henderson was appointed a member of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Services to Music. On Friday, 24 August 2012, just prior to the Notting Hill Carnival weekend, he was honored with the unveiling of a blue plaque in Notting Hill at the junction of Tavistock Road known as "Carnival Square", to honour his contributions to the development of Carnival. Russ led the first carnival parade in 1965. He is also credited with helping to transform the Notting Hill Carnival into a high, revenue-producing, International event. Russ departed for Heaven at age 91, on August 18, 2015.

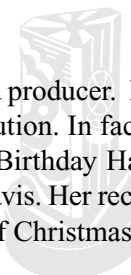
THE NOMINEES / RECIPIENTS FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE AWARDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



Erna Letemps - Haiti

Performing Artist, Teacher, Public Servant

Erna Letemps is a singer, actor, playwright and producer. In January 2004 Erna was honored to celebrate her county's bicentennial of the Haitian revolution. In fact, she also performed a duet with the Calypso King of the World on the CD titled "Happy Birthday Haiti." This CD also featured, Susan Sarandon, Danny Glover, Gil Figaro and the late Ossie Davis. Her recent projects include the writing and production of two successful plays – "A Different Kind of Christmas" and "Guilty or Not Guilty."



Youssouf Koumbassa - Guinea, West Africa

African Dancer

Born and raised in Guinea, West Africa, Youssouf Koumbassa began dancing at the age of six by studying and emulating the members of the National Ballet and the leading dancers of the many local and regional dance companies in Guinea. For thirteen years, he traveled extensively throughout West Africa, Japan, Bangladesh, India, Holland, Hungary, Russia, Korea, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the United States with the Ballet National. He is now globally known and sought after as the African dance teacher from Guinea.



David and Chandrakantha Courtney - India/Houston

Performing Artists

David and Chandrakantha have been performing on the tabla since 1972 after spending a number of years learning the instrument in India. They perform extensively on stage, TV, CDs, and radio, in India, Europe and the United States. In 2009, they were designated as "Cultural Jewels of India" by the Indian Cultural Centre of Houston.



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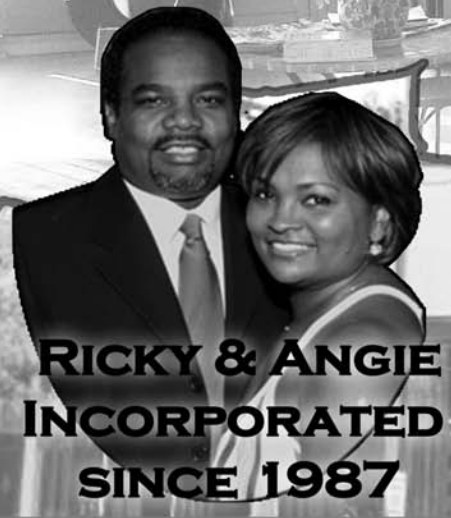
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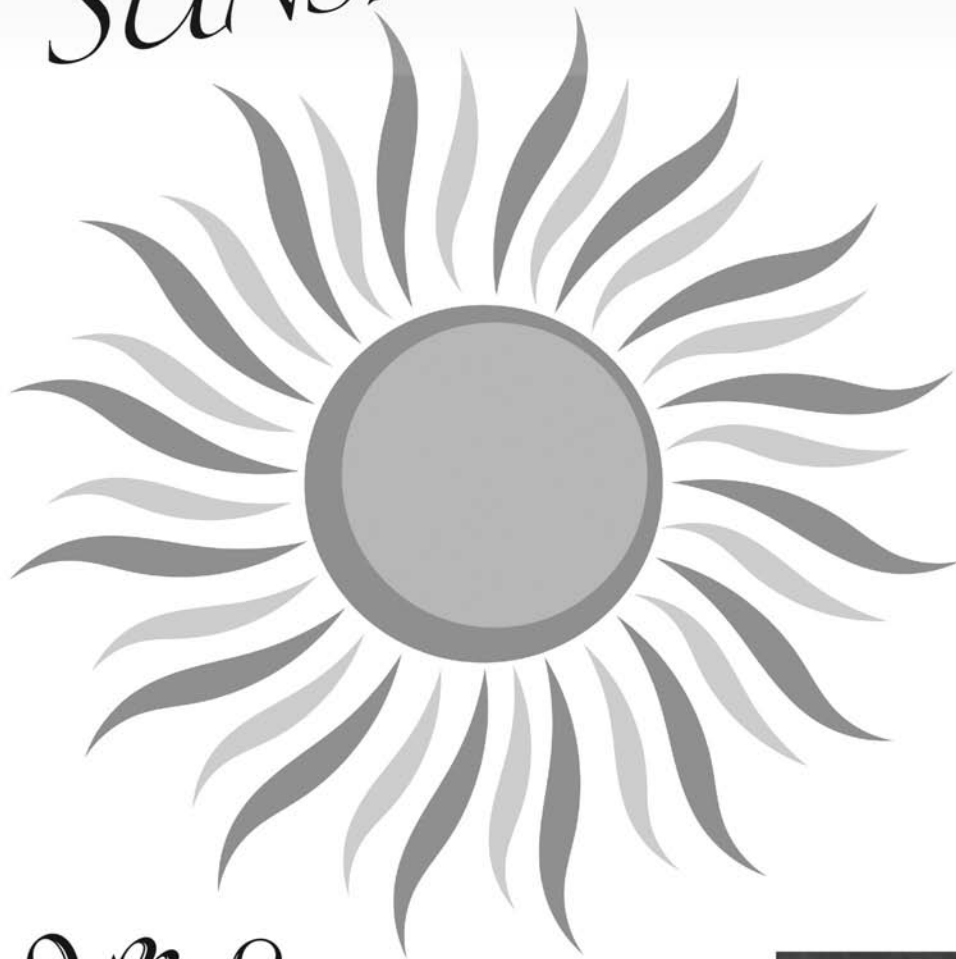
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VIDYA SARTORIUS



THE NOMINEES / RECIPIENTS FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE AWARDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



Sharlene Flores - Trinidad & Tobago

Performing Artist

Sharlene Flores joined the famed Parang Group, San Jose Serenaders in 1975 (40 years ago). In 1978 she became the lead singer of the group. In 1982 the band “Flores De San Jose” was formed and with Sharlene as lead singer they immediately became a major force of Latin Parang Music. Parang is a popular folk music brought to Trinidad by Venezuelan migrants who were primarily of Amerindian, Spanish, and African heritage, something which is strongly reflected in the music itself. Parang is widely performed during the Christmas season.



Rawle Gibbons - Trinidad & Tobago.

University Professor, Researcher, Writer and Dramatist

Rawle Gibbons is a writer and dramatist. His Calypso Trilogy of plays was a landmark in the exploration of calypso, history and politics on stage. He was the first head of the Centre for Creative and Festival Arts at the University of the West Indies - St. Augustine, a post he held for 20 years. Though recently retired, he continues to research Calypso, Orisha and the festival arts in the Caribbean with an eye for their dramatic components. His abiding passion is education through drama and the folk and popular art forms. He recently produced a dramatic piece “The March to Caroni” which documents the events of the 1970 Black Power Revolution in Trinidad.

Credit: <http://www.pancaribbean.com/banyan/i2i.htm>.



Godfrey Augustine - Grenada

Show Promoter and DJ

For the past twenty years, every Grenadian knows of Godfrey Augustine owing to the love and respect he has shown for the calypso art form. He is the disc jockey who brings the calypso over the radio air waves to them daily, explaining at the same time the meaning of the lyrics and the relevance of the song to music in general and to world themes in particular. Besides playing calypso daily, he searches his historical, lyrical bank to find calypsos to educate the youth and other academics who are searching for knowledge. In addition, every year, Grenadians look forward to his super calypso concert production whereby is featured the leading calypsonians of the Caribbean.



Pelham Goddard - Trinidad & Tobago

Musician, Producer, Arranger, Songwriter

Playing piano from the age of nine, Pelham learned to read music via a correspondence course from the Berkley College of Music in Boston. He launched his professional career in 1967, as organist for the Peter De Vlught Orchestra. For over three decades he has made a lasting impact as a songwriter, arranger and producer. He arranged and produced many hits for many calypso and soca artists including David Rudder, Christopher “Tambu” Herbert, Super Blue and Calypso Rose. He has also arranged and produced many radio and television jingles. **(By Craig Harris)**



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VINCENT A. HUGGINS (DECEASED)
Chief Executive Officer and Founder of National Staffing Associates

By: Dr. Harold Robertson

The SUNSHINE Awards Organization lost one of its most stalwart supporters when Vincent Huggins transitioned to eternal life on 10 December 2014 at the young age of sixty-one.

Born in the vibrant town of Point Fortin, Trinidad and Tobago, Vincent migrated to the U.S.A. in 1971. There he met and married the love of his life, Lynette and they celebrated their fortieth anniversary with a renewal of vows ceremony in June 2014. Together they were the parents of three children and grandparents of two.

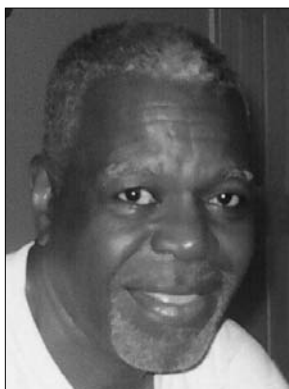
By dint of perseverance and hard work Vincent and Lynette formed and developed a number of successful business operations in New Jersey, providing viable employment to many as well as much needed services to large numbers of New Jersey residents. He was the moving force behind the formation of the Caribbean American Business Association (CABA) which came into existence in 2005. CABA was designed to promote economic development, encourage entrepreneurship and business partnerships among people of Caribbean descent in the tristate area.

In all of this, Vincent never lost sight of the importance of the community and its cultural antecedents. It was the latter feature which influenced his strong support for cultural activities and organizations among which was included the SUNSHINE Awards Program.

Through his business, National Staffing Associates, Vincent was a valued sponsor of the program and even from his hospital bed constantly enquired about the organization and its progress and supported its activities.

The SUNSHINE Awards Organization was proud to honour Vincent for his unwavering support by bestowing its SUNSHINE Awards Corporate Award to National Staffing Associates in October 2014. Although he was unable to accept the award in person, Vincent was able to physically admire the award and to convey his deep appreciation for the honour before his untimely passing.

The SUNSHINE Awards Organization joins the tri-state Caribbean community in paying tribute to the life and contributions of Vincent A. Huggins and we take comfort in the sure fact that the angels and archangels gathered together to welcome him to his heavenly home.



JOSEPH ROMEO SR. (DECEASED)
SUNSHINE Awards, Manager, Event Tickets Controller

By: Dr. Harold Robertson

Joseph Romeo Sr. Passed away in Englewood, New Jersey on 16 March 2015 at the age of seventy-four. Popularly known as “ Joe “ he was born in San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago on 3 August 1941 and obtained his primary and secondary education in Trinidad before re-locating to the U.S.A.

A quiet and unassuming man, few realized that Joe read for a Bachelor’s degree at Howard University and completed graduate studies at Fairleigh Dickenson with a Master’s degree in Chemistry and Mathematics. Joe then spent over thirty years employed as a Chemist with Unilever/Lever Brothers.

Often described as the best chemist at Lever during his tenure, Joe was credited as either the inventor or co-inventor on many copyrighted or trade-patented items. Indeed, Joe contributed to the invention and development of several popular products used widely in households around the world today.

In addition to his profession, Joe’s three abiding passions were family, sports and the SUNSHINE Awards. He placed great emphasis on education and oversaw the education of his family with singular rigour. He was a walking encyclopedia of sports and sports history often engaging in spirited conversations with friends on the sporting issues of the day.

We are, however, most grateful for his indefatigable love and support for the SUNSHINE Awards. Joe served for many years on the Tactical/Operations Team of the organization, for fifteen years. His easy humour, insightful suggestions and unflinching willingness to embrace any request contributed in no small measure to the success and longevity of the SUNSHINE organization.

While saddened by his loss, the SUNSHINE Awards Organization offers its gratitude and tribute to Joseph Romeo Snr. for his invaluable and generous contribution to the organization and the performing arts.





JOHANN HANS GEISER (DECEASED)
SUNSHINE Awards Founding Member & Member of Board of Directors

By: Dr. Harold Robertson

Hans Geiser, Swiss by birth, “Trini” by choice, passed away in the land of his choice on May 11, 2015 at the age of seventy-four. Born in Switzerland on 8 March 1941, Hans was educated in the land of his birth where he obtained a M.A. in Law from the University of Fribourg and a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career as an international civil servant, academic, consultant and cultural savant.

At various phases of his career, Hans served as a Research Associate and Lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva; Co-Founder and Lecturer at the Institute of International Affairs of the University of the West Indies (U.W.I), St, Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago; Head of the Law Program at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); Training Specialist at the World Bank in Washington D. C.; Director of Training at the International Labor Organization (ILO), in Turin, Italy and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Trinidad and Tobago.

Following his retirement from the United Nations, Hans became a Permanent Resident of Trinidad and Tobago where he settled with his Trinidadian spouse and family. He remained active in his retirement returning as a lecturer to his beloved Institute of International Affairs at U.W.I. and working as a Foreign Policy Consultant with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Port of Spain. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited (E-TeK) of Trinidad and Tobago.

Hans’ true passion, however, was culture, specifically Trinidad and Tobago culture and its signature manifestation, calypso. It was in this area that Hans outdid himself with his participation in the SUNSHINE Awards Organization and in the many facets of its work especially in the production of Calypso for Africa in 1986 and the launching of Song for Montserrat in 1999. He was determined with his still continuing effort to grow the SUNSHINE Awards into full recognition as the Caribbean Grammy Awards. Hans was also responsible for the global recognition and endorsement of the SUNSHINE Awards by the United Nations.

Hans Geiser has left an unparalleled record of service to the international community, to Trinidad and Tobago and to the SUNSHINE Awards and the Organization while greatly saddened by his passing derives comfort from his legacy.





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- Roast Bake & Fry Shark
- Pumpkin
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- Bodi 
- Smoke Herring ETC.

DINNER

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- Oxtail
- Goat 
- Beef
- Crab & Dumpling
- Steam Fish 
- Oil Down or (comes with white rice, rice & peas, fried rice or Chinese-style Friedrice)
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Biography

Steven Benvenisti, Esq. is a partner at Davis, Saperstein & Salomon, PC, a very successful personal injury law firm, with offices in New York and New Jersey. For more than 20 years, Steven has been representing clients in civil cases following serious injuries they sustained. He is one of the less than 3% of the attorneys in his state designated by the Supreme Court as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney. He is included on the select list of The National Trial Lawyers "Top 100 Trial Lawyers" and is one of New Jersey's "Super Lawyers."

Steven graduated Magna Cum Laude from college in 1990 and earned his Juris Doctorate in Law from the University Of Bridgeport School Of Law in 1993.

Steven is the Vice-Chairman of the Board for Mothers Against Drunk Driving National, and is a Board member of The Brain Injury Alliance of NJ and the Police Crime Prevention Assoc.

Approximately thirty (30) per year, Steven serves as a motivational and keynote speaker at medical and professional conferences throughout the country. 100% of the honorariums from these programs are donated directly to charities.

In his quest to end drunk driving, Steven authored, *Spring Break: A True Story of Hope and Determination*, regarding one of his cases involving a catastrophically injured patient he represented.

The government has honored him with a:

US Senate Official Proclamation

US Congressional Citation

U.S. House of Representatives Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition

Executive Proclamation by the New Jersey Governor

NJ Joint Senate-General Assembly Legislative Resolution

His recent awards include:

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Business Man of the Year

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Bar Foundation Lawyer Achievement Award

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Brain Injury Annual Mimi Goldman Award

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END DWI Law Enforcement Recognition Award

NJ Traffic Officers Paul St. Mauro Award

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EMS Excellence Award

Hackensack Medical Center's Trauma Prevention & Education Award



The **SUNSHINE** Awards

Gilman T. Figaro, Sr.
Chairman/Founder





The **SUNSHINE** Awards

Gilman T. Figaro, Sr.
Chairman/Founder

Kyeba Jackman



Juneisha Burrowes

Miguel Marcelle



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THE NOMINEES / RECIPIENTS FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE AWARDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



Peter Blood - Trinidad & Tobago

Journalist

For the past forty years, Trinidadians have grown accustomed to the name Peter Blood; it is a name linked to every aspect of entertainment in the twin-island state. Peter has covered calypso, steel band, parang, jazz and gospel music in all the leading newspapers and journals since Independence 1962, writing in a style that makes readers become participants in the event itself. His description of ethno-musicological events allows readers to feel that, having read “Bloodline,” they can narrate to anyone what took place at the event itself. Besides being a journalist of the Arts, many artists in Trinidad and Tobago rely on Peter’s evaluations to improve their offerings on stage, especially that of carnival.

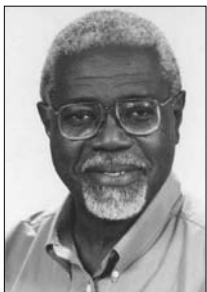


THE DOM BASIL MATTHEWS 27TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE AWARD NOMINEES RECIPIENTS:



Dr. Allister Francis (Posthumously) - Antigua & Barbuda

If today the independent state of Antigua can boast about education, it is because of the interest, commitment and work of one man in the main: Dr. Alister Francis. He is the one who having been educated at Howard University in the United States, returned to Antigua and single-handedly revolutionized education in the state. Starting with primary education, Francis organized various departments on the island to form the Antigua State College in 1977 and expose Antiguan to secondary education. He furthered his educational thrust by adding the training of nurses to the Institution as well as opening up the College to Advanced level GCE in 1978, thereby moving from 150 students to over 1000 souls in the first decade. Today the Antigua State College, because of Dr. Francis, introduces students to first year courses as part of their degree programmes of the University of the West Indies.



Professor Dr. Gordon Rohlehr - Trinidad & Tobago / Guyana

Professor Gordon Rohlehr has spent over forty years in the Department of English at the University of the West Indies at St Augustine, Trinidad. He is internationally recognized for his ground-breaking work on Caribbean literature, calypso and culture. In fact, he is often described as the world’s leading authority on calypso, tracing its development over the last two hundred years from its West African origins and studying the vast amount of recorded material produced by generations of West Indians, particularly in Trinidad and Tobago. He wrote more than 100 essays on West Indian literature, oral poetry, calypso and the popular culture of the Caribbean. He has been the recipient of the University of the West Indies’ Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in the combined fields of Teaching, Research, Administration and Public Service (1995).

<http://www.theintegrationistcaribbean.org/distinguished-researchers/gordon-rohlehr/>.





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