

SHARE INFORM ENLIGHTEN INC. PRESENTS....

WRITE - RHYME - RECITE COLLECTIVE HONORS

Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Community Champions



By: Robert L. Gadsden Jr.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024
THE ART LEAGUE OF LONG ISLAND - DIX HILLS, NY

ABOUT FOUNDER VERDEL JONES AND SHARE INFORM ENLIGHTEN, INC.

Verdel A. Jones is a passionate experienced educator, author, business owner and longtime talk show host of the popular shows, "Conversations With Verdel Jones" and "Let's Kick It with The Joneses." She's made a significant impact on students as an educator for over 30 years, shared valuable information with her viewers and has awarded students in our community scholarships. This year marks her nineteenth year of dedicated service with the Plainedge School District as the Director of Guidance & Support Services. She is the proud daughter of Bobby and Shirley Gadsden who taught her the power of love, God and family.

Verdel received her bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. However, she soon discovered that her passion was educating children. As a result, she received her master's degree in secondary education from Hofstra University, as well as her master's degree in educational leadership from Long Island University.

Verdel's talk show, "Conversations with Verdel Jones," is featured on several media platforms. Being a teacher at heart, her show is focused on sharing conversations that inform and enlighten – in the hopes that individuals learn something they may not have known. Providing relevant information to her viewers is what inspires her. Verdel is also the co-host of a groundbreaking intergenerational talk show, "Let's Kick It With The Joneses," which also co-stars her husband, Jeremiah and their grown-ish children Marcus and Miya. The premise of this show is to highlight a positive Black family who not only loves each other, but likes each other and can talk about topics that resonate with other families.

She is also the author of the must-have book, "The Parent Agent: How to Represent Your Child and Get Them Into the College of Their Choice." Her extensive knowledge of the college exploration and selection process; current educational issues; and the social and emotional challenges students experience, make her an expert in her field.

As the founder of DeliTeach Enterprises, LLC, she has been able to provide various services including speaking and hosting events dedicated to supporting her community. In 2019, Verdel founded the not-for-profit, Share Inform Enlighten Inc.



The mission of Share Inform Enlighten Inc. is to empower families with information and resources through educational programs to improve their quality of life. This mission is our driving force to see that everyone wins! Our focus is to provide information that will allow people, especially our youth, to grow and achieve their career and personal goals.

In June of 2018, we hosted our first Write, Rhyme and Recite Collective: Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Authors through DeliTeach Enterprises, LLC. Wanting to give authors a platform to share their stories, we created this program to also support literacy. In addition, we wanted to give graduating Long Island students scholarships via a poetry slam scholarship. In 2019, we hosted our second annual event. Starting in 2023, we began offering scholarships through our not-for-profit Share Inform Enlighten and have since awarded \$11,700.00 in scholarships. We are excited that our Write, Rhyme, & Recite Collective Honors - Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Community Champions event is back. We are not only awarding high school students scholarships, but we are celebrating individuals that positively impact our community.

www.ShareInformEnlighten.org

WRITE, RHYME, RECITE COLLECTIVE HONORS

Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Community Champions

PROGRAM

Host Welcome - Verdel Jones

Dinner - Meet and Greet

Introduction of Poetry Slam Judges

Poetry Slam Scholar Presentations

Community Champions Honors and Awards

Special Presentation

Poetry Slam Scholarship Award Presentations

Closing Remarks

POETRY SLAM SCHOLAR NIRVANA COLE



Nirvana Cole is a senior attending Malverne High School. She is a Poet Laureate of her class and President of her schools Spoken Word & Poetry Club. With her piece “The Schism of Lady Macbeth”, she won her school’s 2023 slam poetry competition., Additional leadership roles include, Senior Class treasurer and Girls Club president. Outside of poetry she has served as a Varsity Softball pitcher since 10th grade. She also went on to become a conference 6 champion. Nirvana has also given back to her community taking part in charity events for

Toys of Hope and volunteering during school blood drives. She also has a great love for reading and photography! Her goal is to become a medic in the Air Force and then go on to be a physician’s assistant in geriatrics and potentially a literature professor.

POETRY SLAM SCHOLAR CLARA GOLDMAN



Clara Goldman is a senior at Great Neck North High School and will be attending Wesleyan University in the fall. She is a lover of the arts and athletics through her involvement as a fencing instructor, play performer, and photographer. She loves to incorporate her passion for acting into her pieces, as well as create new things wherever she goes. Her love for this and psychology has steered her to pursue arts and humanities.



Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Gadsden

Congratulates

The Students and Community Champions
On Their Great Accomplishments!

GOD BLESS
WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

Congratulations

to all of the
Community Champions
&

Poetry Slam Scholars

Mt. Nebo Grand Lodge - CFL

1074 Hall Place
Bronx, NY

Grand Master - Jose Rivera 33



POETRY SLAM SCHOLAR KIRSTEN LILLY



Kirsten Lilly is a senior at Long Beach High School who has always been eager to take on new challenges. She focuses heavily on her studies as an IB Diploma Candidate and by excelling at the most rigorous courses available at Long Beach High School. She has won multiple awards on the national level for her passions in poetry. Outside of studies and writing, Kirsten is a multi-sport athlete. She placed 13th at the New York State Indoor Track and Field Championships for pole vault, and she has been named the Nassau County Champion for pole vault two

years in a row. Kirsten placed 1st on the uneven bars at the 2024 New York State Championships for gymnastics, putting her in the top three All Around or USAIGC Platinum. She is one of the head cheerleaders, works a job throughout the year in customer service, privately coaches gymnastics, holds many leadership positions in clubs, and is a decorated musician with talents in five different instruments. Kirsten is an extrovert to say the least; she is extremely grateful for her supporters and friends she's found throughout her high school writing career, and owes the distinction of being selected as a Share Inform Enlighten Poetry Slam Scholarship recipient to them. Kirsten intends to continue writing at Binghamton University as a Creative Writing and Chemical Engineering major, and as a NCAA Division I Student-Athlete.



Congratulations

To All Of The
Poetry Slam Scholarship
Recipients & Community
Champions - 2024



St. Marks Lodge #19

Brentwood, NY

Four Corners Deli & First Realty Corporation

Central Islip, NY

Congratulations
Community Champions

&
Poetry Slam Students

2024

COMMUNITY CHAMPION



DAFNY J. IRIZARRY

Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Dafny Joy Irizarry Ortiz is the founder and president of the Long Island Latino Teachers Association. She is a woman and educator with a passion for equity, justice, and inclusiveness. Ms. Irizarry has demonstrated leadership and commitment in advocating, in collaboration with community groups and educational institutions to ensure high quality education for all students. She is committed to empowering Long Island's youth to grow educationally.

Ms. Irizarry was born and raised in Ponce, Puerto Rico. She attended the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras where she became a recipient of the Paul Douglas Scholarship. This opportunity allowed her to successfully complete her Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics from SUNY Stony Brook. Additionally, she completed a Master's degree in Education from CUNY at Queens College. She graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Currently, Ms. Irizarry teaches English as a New Language (ENL) in the Central Islip School District. She also serves as First Vice President for the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) Long Island Chapter, a member of the Advisory Board for the TESOL Program at Molloy University and a member for the Community Advisory Board for Northwell Health. She served as Board Chair Trustee for Suffolk County Community College, a member for the NYS Commissioner's Teachers Advisory Board, Board Chair for Herstory Writers Workshop, and Advisory Board member for the Professional Education Program at Stony Brook University. She has been recognized among Long Island's 50 Top Women.

LILTA

www.LILTA.org

Facebook: @LILTA

IG: @lilta_inc

MEN'S MINISTRY - NJBC

**Good luck to all the student participants.
May God continue to bless you all!**

Men's Ministry NJBC - Deacon James Wright -President

New Jerusalem Baptist Church

"A church you can invest in"

**39 MacArthur Avenue
Brentwood, NY 11717**

Bishop M. Edward Reid, Pastor



**Good luck to all the 2024
student participants.**

May God continue to bless you all!

New Jerusalem Baptist Church

"A church you can invest in"

**39 MacArthur Avenue
Brentwood, NY 11717**

Bishop M. Edward Reid, Pastor



COMMUNITY CHAMPION

NATHALIE C. LILAVOIS, ED.D.

TEDxDeerPark Curator

Dr. Nathalie C. Lilavois has been an educator for thirty-five years in a variety of teaching and administrative capacities. She devoted her first 14 years as a classroom teacher in primary and secondary grade levels followed by a 21-year career as a building and district administrator. Her many accomplishments include a National Blue Ribbon School, the Black Celebration Award in Education, the Phi Delta Kappa International Friends of Education Award, Power Women of Long Island Award, and the Professional Organization of Women of Excellence Recognized (P.O.W.E.R.) Woman of Empowerment. These awards recognize her dedication to education, empowerment, and civic responsibility. Dr. Lilavois is the CEO/Founder

of Zahara Crown, Inc., an educational consulting company that provides professional educational support, and mentoring and coaching to parents, teachers, and administrators, focused on ensuring high quality, positive, engaging learning experiences for students of color. Using her vast experience as an educator, Dr. Nat strives to level the playing field by empowering families with the educational and financial information, resources, and tools they need to be successful and build a strong legacy for their future. Dr. Nat is the curator and executive producer of TEDxDeerPark. She has curated successful TEDx events on Long Island since 2017. Dr Nat is a co-author of “Love Letters to My Girls, Sisters Inspiring Sisters”; “Voices of the 21-st Century: Caring, Conscious Women Who Make A Difference”; and “Disrupting the Status Quo”, all Amazon bestsellers. Dr. Nat completed her undergraduate degree with a dual major in elementary education at Hofstra University. She holds a master’s degree in Developmental Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University and a Doctor of Education in Literacy Studies from her alma mater, Hofstra University. As an adjunct professor, she has taught teacher education courses at Hofstra University, Queens College, York College, and Dowling College. Dr. Nat is a former US Army Reserve Captain whose name was added to the Historic Roll of Honor by the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation in June 2011. She is president of the executive board of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. (MMSI), chair of the award-winning Economic Empowerment Committee of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Long Island Chapter, and is also a proud member of the prestigious Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She enjoys vacationing, computer games, reading, and spending time with her daughter, Brianna and their furbaby, Jupiter.



IG: @zaharacrown

www.zaharacrown.com



www.tedxdeerpark.com

COMMUNITY CHAMPION



JOSÉ TUTIVEN

Founder & CEO

Ecuadorian immigrant, Long Island-raised artist, and entrepreneur, Jose Tutiven champions communities through the arts & culture. He founded Colored Colors in 2019 to empower artists, provide safe spaces for expression, and spotlight the transformative power of arts & culture.

His leadership extends to his role as board president of the Huntington Arts Council and his work with the Babylon Arts Council through the prestigious Creative Rebuild New

York grant. He collaborates on projects across Long Island extending all the way to Hudson Yards, solidifying the region's reputation as an arts destination, and building a bridge from NYC to Long Island.

Jose's vision is to nurture Long Island's creative talent and strengthen its artistic legacy. In the last five years, he's worked with over 3,000 artists, musicians, poets, and small businesses, proving his commitment to his mission: "I want to beautify my communities and create a place where future generations can find success through creativity."

Jose is a passionate individual who thrives on bringing people together through cultural events. Projects such as the first ever 'Latin Night' in Huntington; that saw a huge success of bringing a new audience to that community or building the first ever arts & music festival in Bella Abzug Park that, resides within the Hudson Yards district of Manhattan, are the reasons he continues his journey.

With the experience he has gained in the last five years of his work there is also a new dedication to expanding public funding for the arts & culture sector. The next five years will focus on advocacy, consistency, and furthering this purpose.



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WRRRC HONORS 2024

CONGRATULATIONS

Community Champions &
Scholarship Winners

Mr. & Mrs. Darius A. Burton

THE FAMILY OF
Earline Marshall

Congratulates The 2024

Poetry Slam Scholarship Winners






OUR POETRY SLAM JUDGES

EMMA DESULME



Emma Desulme is a Haitian American woman who has always had the knack of creativity from music and crafting to writing. She is the author of "Soul of a Rising Phoenix," a poetry collection that displays an interesting range of emotions, struggles, victories, and experiences that a lot of people go through silently in life. Emma also discovered a creative new genre in which she incorporated both of her Creole and English languages to bring to you Crenglish Poetry. When Emma isn't busy writing, you'll find her playing one out of the nine musical instruments, with her community band. Most of her instruments were self-taught. She makes and wears many hats. You can also find her crocheting while watching anime for her business, Savvy Creations by Emma. If she's not tied up with those other activities, you'll find her teaching people how to save lives using CPR/First Aid as a certified instructor for the American Heart Association. Not to mention, she's a bit of a travel junkie.

 www.soulofarisingphoenix.com

  @EmmaDesulme


JESSICA PAYES





Jessica Payes is a spoken word artist and author who has been featured in various open mics and poetry slam competitions around New York City. When not writing or performing, Jessica is a social worker helping families and children navigate life with mental health diagnoses.

In her debut collection, "Manipulated," Jessica highlights the importance of mental health and its effect in a raw and unfiltered way, being open with her journey of depression hoping readers know they, too, are stronger than their pain.

Jessica is currently working on multiple projects including visual arts, painting, a second poetry collection, and a debut novel.

 www.strongerthanmypain.com

  @strongerthanmypain



2024 BLACK AUTHORS FESTIVAL @SAG HARBOR

August 3, 2024 4:00 p.m.

HONOREES



DR. JENNIFER MORGAN
Professor of History
New York University



TAMRON HALL
Emmy Award-Winning
TV Host, Journalist &
Bestselling Author



SHEILA BRIDGES
Interior Designer
and Author



REV. LAKEESHA WALROND, PH.D
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Theological Seminary



JOSEPH HOLLAND
Attorney - Speaker
Entrepreneur



MARCUS SAMUELSSON
Award-Winning Chef
Restaurateur



RALPH MCDANIELS
Founder and Curator of
Video Music Box
Hip Hop Icon



DR. ZEBULON MILETSKY
Associate Professor of
Africana Studies
Stony Brook University



HOSTED BY

Alissa Anderson
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PAST POETRY SLAM RECIPIENTS

Eugenia Rodriguez - 2018
Central Islip High School

Julio Shimund Taku - 2018
Walt Whitman High School

Mandy Wagnac - 2018
Westbury High School

Alahna Perez - 2019
Westbury High School

Nicole Codianni - 2019
Long Beach High School

Madeline Dombrow - 2023
Plainview Old Bethpage JFK HS

Rebecca Lodespoto - 2023
West Babylon High School

Arianthe Mastakouris - 2023
LI Lutheran High School

Marion Rai - 2023
Hicksville High School

Katelyn Suarez - 2023
Hicksville High School



SHARE INFORM ENLIGHTEN THANKS

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The Gadsden Family
The Family of Earline Marshall**

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Dix Hills, NY 11746

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR 4TH ANNUAL #WRRC24
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SHARE INFORM ENLIGHTEN TEAM - WITHOUT YOU NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE!