



COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED BY
TRU HEART, INC.

**CNYS
BLACK
EXPO**



**THE BLUEBIRD
FOUNDATION &
MAHOGANY
CONNECTIONS
PRESENTS**



**COMMUNITY
AWARDS
LUNCHEON**

1:00PM

Community Stage Awards Ceremony

1:30PM

Luncheon & Celebration

\$40 TICKETS

Available @ www.cnysblackexpo.com



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HOST, JODEE KENNEY



**09
NOV SATURDAY**

1:00PM - 3:00PM



Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Conference Room 7
279 Madison Ave, Albany, NY 12242

Proceeds will Benefit the Bluebird Foundation Scholarship Fund

Congratulations
on the
6TH Annual
Capital of New York State
Black Expo!



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Letter from the Founder

It is with great honor that I present to you the 2024 CNYS Black Expo. My mission in creating this expo was to bring resources, education and empowerment to the very community that poured so much into me as a child.

This event is driven by the knowledge, education and experiences that my grandmother, Annette De Lavallade poured into me. So here I am, proud to be from Albany, NY and honored to represent, serve, and highlight all of the greatness that Albany has been, is, and will continue to be.

Thank you to everyone who has shown support and who continue to show support each year.

I am forever grateful.

Tatiana Cunnigham

Tatiana Cunnigham

Founder



Thanks to
Tru Heart, inc.
&
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of Al-Fitrah
for
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Scholarship
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hurt, broken, and forgotten.



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and your spirit.*

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Jerome Brown
Director Trinity Alliance/518 Snug

"Tyhisha is very passionate about redirecting our youth against violence and guiding them towards moral excellence. Tyhisha has been a volunteer with our program for several years and has been an instrumental part of our success in planning and implementing our events."

Aaron Carter
Founder of Ujima Journey

"Tyhisha is the centerpiece of this organizing effort to help meet the needs of a food shortage in the Black and Brown communities in Albany. Working with sister Tyhisha has been a blessing and a labor of love."



The Guardians of Al-Fitrah

The Guardians of Al-Fitrah is a not-for-profit street ministry founded in NYC in 2007 by Tyhisha A. Ghaffar-Adjei.

Our mission is to provide food, clothing, and spiritual enlightenment to the poor, homeless, hungry, wayfarer, hurt, and broken souls.



Tyhisha A. Ghaffar-Adjei
Founder of The Guardians of Al-Fitrah

is a long-term humanitarian & philanthropist, community activist and organizer of events. Highly spiritual, loyal, honest, direct, and compassionate soul who has a vivacious energy.

"Tyhisha is no stranger to IPH. For the past ten years, she has been volunteering her time and preparing meals for the homeless community. Janine Roitallie, Executive Director for IPH stated "Tyhisha's passion for helping individuals who are experiencing challenges such as homelessness is inspiring."



Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless

Email:
Queen3333@yahoo.com
Phone: (347) 313-5516
Facebook:
Tyhisha A.Ghaffar-Adjei



2024 | CAPITAL OF NEW YORK STATE BLACK EXPO



Our Mission

The mission of the Capital of New York State Black Expo is to promote economic growth and business opportunities across New York State. The CNYS Black Expo will provide attendees with health awareness information to support healthy living, along with providing small businesses with an opportunity to access a broad range of potential customers as well as the local community.

The CNYS Black Expo, sponsored by SEFCU, is an opportunity to highlight BIPOC owned small businesses and provide a platform to raise visibility for their goods and services. With over 165 vendors, 6 workshops, and an evening gala, there is something for everyone!

Saturday November 19th is one full day of culture, community, and connection, celebrating African American History.

For more information, you can go to our website:

www.cnysblackexpo.com

or go to our facebook CNYS Black Expo.

2023 Student Honorees

Cashay Daniels
Janiya Cheatham
Iyannah Rivers

2023 Soiree Honorees

Tsehaya Smith
Annete De'Lavallade Award
Roy Vincent
Lifetime Achievement Award
Walter Simpkins
Torch Bearer Award
Orville Abrahams
Humanitarian Award
Kizzy Williams
Champion of Change Award
Prince Sprauve
Storytelling Genius Award
Nafeesha Wray Martinez
Luminaire Award
Arielle Roberts
Trailblazer Award
LaQuita Love
Educator of Beauty and Empowerment Award
LaQueta Alexander Ellis
Shining Star Award
Tony Bussey
Community Commitment Award

2023 Community Honorees

Lakisha Foy
Educator of Natural Beauty Award
Sharon John
NY Unsung Hero Award
Amanda Wray
Woman's Entrepreneur Award
Greg Sheldon
Community Activist Award
Rae' Frasier
Creative Expression Award
Yolanda Morrissey
Health and Wellness Award
Derek Johnson
Albany South End Vanguard Award
David Traynham
Outstanding Commitment to the Community Award

Blue Bird Awards Luncheon

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Empire State Plaza Convention Center | Albany, NY



Bluebird Organization Inc.

As a Community We Soar

Gala Host:

JoDee Kenney

Spectrum News



JoDee is a three-time National Press Women's Award winner, Associated Press winner and a 40 Under Forty honoree. From reporting on avalanches in Alaska, wildfires in Nevada and the Pentagon in the aftermath of 9/11, JoDee has covered countless stories she considers meaningful.

When JoDee isn't at the anchor desk, she's usually producing her national podcast, "Success with JoDee Kenney." Aside from that, JoDee spends time embracing life as a sports mom, spending time off attending her children's cross country and track and field events with her husband.

Bluebird Award Honorees 2024

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Empire State Plaza Convention Center | Albany, NY

Nell Stokes

Annete De'Lavallade Award

Black Girls Run

Health & Wellness Award

"Journey to Freedom" Team

Donald Hyman-Producer

Dr. Paul Murray-Producer

Z Kirk Daniels-Videographer

Zebulon Schmidt-Videographer

Civic Engagement Award

Khalid Omari Stewart

Community Leadership Award

Marshay Hines

Outstanding Educator Award

Neenah Bland

Community Leadership Award

Reverend Joy Marie Barrett

Humanitarian Award

ACS Printing

Black Business Award

Meet the 2024 Student Honorees!

We at the CNYS Black Expo are proud to announce our 2023 featured honorees. Our honorees were nominated by local community members who saw a need to support and empower these local students who are achieving excellence in our community. Your Scholarship donations cover the Student Honorees scholarships and all fees for them to attend the Gala and Expo with a guest of their choice . Thank you Tru Heart , Inc. and all of our Scholarship Contributors for all of your support.

PRESENTER
Sam Ibrahim
Trueheart

- Trinity Kenney
- Alejandro Hernandez
- Somae Goodbee

2024 | CAPITAL OF NEW YORK STATE BLACK EXPO

Nell Stokes

Annete De'Lavallade Award



Nell Stokes is a native of Montgomery Alabama. She came to the Capital District in 1963. She became active in the community in the early 70's when she ran an independent candidacy for a seat on the Albany School Board. She continued to be an asset to her community by serving on numerous Boards of Directors. She served on the Capital Area Council of Churches' Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial/Scholarship Committee for 25 years and as its chair for 18 of those years. She also served as an Albany County Election Inspector for nineteen years. Nell describes herself determined, self-motivated, assertive, innovative and creative. She demonstrated her creativity in 1979 while employed by the Albany YWCA. She created, designed and implemented the Black American Essay Contest, which encouraged students ages 8 to 18 to develop their skills in research and writing. The contest continued for more than fifteen years with excerpts from each winning essay seen on local television stations each day during the month of February.

As a public speaker, she has spoken on topics, such as, "Racism in America: The ABCs of Personal Change," "Returning Adult Learner," "Positive Role of Youth in Society," "Growing up in the Jim Crow South" and many more. She was a columnist for the South End Scene newspaper, Baptist Carrier and Classique Magazine. She was Co-anchor of News, Views and Interviews, a radio talk show on WROW-AM 1994-1997. Nell has written, directed and produced several plays with themes around education, faith, hope and love. She is also a poet who credits her inspiration to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. She holds memberships in the League of Women Voters, the NAACP and the Underground Railroad Education Center. She dropped her first video single "Am I Enough" on December 25, 2021, which can be accessed through Apple music, Spotify, and Pandora. It can also be found on her YouTube Channel – Nell Stokes 80 and up.

Nell volunteered at Giffen Elementary School in the 15-Love Book Power Club, September 2005–April 2015. She served as volunteer Interim Executive Director of the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region for 18 months. She also served as a volunteer with the Wizard's Wardrobe, a one-on-one After-School Tutoring Program for children in the 1st & 2nd grade.

From December 17, 2023 – December 31, 2024, at the Albany Institute of History and Art, you can view Lacey Wilson's exhibit, Nell Stokes: Stories Education Advocate. An oral interview with Nell can be accessed on the Institutes website at www.albanyinstitute.org. She is also featured with other civil rights activists on the Siena College website, Siena.edu/journeytofreedom in a documentary called "Journey to Freedom" honoring local veterans of the Civil Rights Movement.

Nell is retired from the Albany County Department of Social Services. She is an avid bowler who can also be found participating in water exercise at the Bethlehem YMCA on a weekly basis.

Nell is known to give unselfishly of her time, talents and treasure. She says her faith sustains her and God uses her gifts for His glory.



Black Girls Run Health & Wellness Award

Black Girls Run is a national organization that was started in 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia in an effort to get more women of color moving on the pavement to beat health statistics, including heart disease and diabetes within that population.

In 2014, Olivia Frempong, a woman on a fitness journey herself, joined the NYC chapter and fell in love with the movement and a couple of the main mottos and mission of the organization, NO WOMAN LEFT BEHIND and YOUR RACE YOUR PACE, and decided to do whatever it took to get a chapter started in the Capital Region. After diligently working hard to make a difference in Albany, two years later in 2016, Olivia was able to chapter the Black Girls Run Albany chapter and has served as the Lead and sole Ambassador for almost 9 years. With the help of her amazing run coordinators, today the chapter has close to 1000 women who are dedicated to moving daily to improve their health and fitness.

Today there are about 75 Black Girls Run chapter nationwide and the movement continues to grow under the National Leadership of JayEll Alexander.

Donald Hyman
Civic Engagement Award



Donald Hyman is Brooklynite who now calls ALBANY home. He spent a year studying Fashion Design at Parsons School of Design in Greenwich Village. He has a BS from the St Francis College, MA in Urban Studies and MS in Secondary Education from Long Island University. He is currently Vice- Chairman for CHANNEL ALBANY and has produced “ALBANY TEMPO SPECTRUM” for 8 seasons and currently produces “Capitol Region Portraits” for Proctors Open Stage Media.

He currently works at Pine Hills Elementary School in Albany. He was adjunct professor in the American Studies Department at the College of St. Rose for 6 years.

He is faculty advisor for the Cosmetology and Barbering Club at Albany High School.

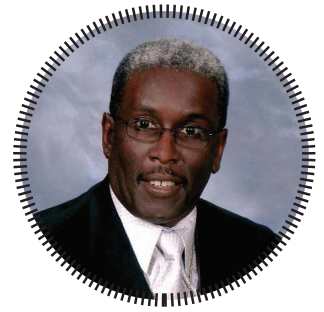
Hyman is the proud host of “POWER OF PRAISE-GOSPEL HORIZONS” WVCR 88.3 SIENA COLLEGE Sunday mornings 6am-8am.



Paul T. Murray
Civic Engagement Award

Paul Murray is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Siena College in Loudonville, New York. He is a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement and has published numerous articles about Catholic activists in the movement. His book, *Seeing Jesus in the Eyes of the Oppressed: A History of Franciscans Working for Peace and Justice*, has been published by the Academy of American Franciscan History. His writing has won awards from the American Catholic Historical Association, the Mississippi Historical Association and the Catholic Press Association. He has been an expert witness in voting rights cases for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the U.S. Department of Justice. He was elected to the Albany City School Board, serving as its president in 1995. He has been a board member and chairman of the Siena College Martin Luther King Lecture Series and a board member of the Underground Railroad History Project. He currently is a board member of the Living Legacy Project.

Kirk Daniels
Civic Engagement Award



A 1968 graduate of the City School District of Albany's former Philip Schuyler High School, Kirk Daniels went on to a career of more than 50 years in television and video production in the Capital Region.

While attending the Hudson Valley Community College, Daniels was the first African-American technician hired at WTEN when he began there in 1968. He went on to an impressive career that spanned 45 years at WTEN. He was involved with thousands of local news stories during that time, first as a camera, audio and videotape operator and later as a master control operator and editor. He is the very proud father of two children: Sabrina Daniels, a Syracuse University grad. She's a New York State worker, mother of one, Amir. Kirk J. Daniels Jr. is a Colonel has served over 20 years in the US Army. He and his wife Ellie is stationed in Belgium. One grandson, Amir, a graduate of Johnson & Wells in Providence Rhode Island. A devoted husband for 42 years to my wonderful wife, Arlene Daniels until her passing 11 years old. Now Daniels is happily involved with his significant other, Saundra Griffin. With a Host of family and friends, he has been Blessed in so many ways.

Following his retirement from WTEN in 2013, Daniels served for eight years as the studio coordinator for Channel Albany, the city's public-access television station. His expertise and steady leadership provided much-needed stability and professional experience for Channel Albany's video production capabilities. His engagement with the community, and his work with independent producers from all walks of life, yielded innovative and educational television content for the Albany community.

Daniels also volunteered for more than a decade as the media coordinator for First Israel AME Church in Albany, one of the oldest African-American churches in the Capital Region. His skills helped First Israel AME produce video conferences that are distributed nationally.

A proud product of Albany's community, through his professional accomplishments and community service Daniels is a shining example of achievement and determination.



Zebulon Schmidt
Civic Engagement Award

Before getting involved with Public/ Education/ Government access television, Zeb was building his career as a freelance videographer and editor. He worked on various small projects locally with his creative approach to problem-solving and resource management. With that experience, he brought a seasoned approach to commercial video production when he began working for Schenectady Public Access Television; currently known as OSM. As the production coordinator, he realized the precedence for free local speech and became determined to set his focus on giving his community a profound public access station. In 2008, Zeb became the Station Manager, and then later the Station Director, leading the way in establishing the new station facility within Proctors and rebranding the channel. Zeb currently serves on the board of directors for the Alliance for Community Media: New York Chapter, and as the co-chair of the Alliance for Community Media: Northeast Region.

Khalid Omari Stewart
Community Leadership Award



Khalid Omari Stewart is just one of the latest examples and products of The Albany City School District. From Arbor Hill Elementary, to Philip Livingston Middle School, and finally Albany High School. After receiving his diploma Khalid enlisted into the United States Army where he served as a Personnel Services Specialists. Upon the completion of his service to country, Khalid attained his security license. Through numerous events, and opportunities, Khalid quickly built a reputation for himself in the local nightlife as a very good security guard. With that reputation and a host of connections, Great Eight Security was born in October of 2019. After bringing aboard 2 lifelong friends as business partners, the company secured its LLC. In the year and a half since, Great Eight Security is now the sole provider of Security to 4 local venues. They employ over 15 local security guards and anticipate even more growth in the coming years.



Marshay Hines
Outstanding Educator Award

Marshay Hines is a native from the South End of Albany. She received her K-12 education within the Albany City School district as a student-athlete. She is the youngest of four siblings, who all have assisted with creating the person she is today.

As a youth and young adult, Marshay was a Sponsor-A-Scholar participant, a Boys and Girls Club kid, Albany Lady Knicks AAU basketball athlete, an Albany Lady Jr. Falcon/Lady Falcons basketball player, as well as a part of a host of other extracurricular activities.

Marshay has a Masters in Public Administration. She is the Vice President of the Arbor Hill Sport Complex Committee, a member of the Lincoln Park Alliance Committee, a member of the NYS Department of Education SEL Reform Team, as well as the co-chairperson for the Albany Country District Attorney Felony Divergent Group.

Marshay also has a host of classroom and leadership experience and has been in the education field for the past 12 years. In her 13th year, she is currently serving as a principal in a local Charter Middle School. Marshay is not only passionate about education but event planning as well. Her business, Harlow's Way is an event planning and décor business that has provided services to local schools for the past four years. Marshay continuously assists her community with creating positive memories for a lifetime. For the past two years, Marshay's program From the Blocks to the Books, have been providing services to scholars between the ages of 6-16 with tutoring in both English Language Arts and Mathematics and will be having her second official college tour during Spring Break in 2025 with 30 plus middle school and high school students.

Although Marshay is committed to the growth and development of her community, her favorite role is being a mother to her daughter Harlow. Marshay continues to teach and provide Harlow with the tools and resources to build a community and leave it better than the way it was found.

Marshay's ultimate goal is to create a space to decrease the number of youth who are considered to be the most at-risk. In the interest of all stakeholders, Marshay will continue to be a vessel of excellence for the Capital Region community through commitment and dedication to providing quality education and valuable resources.

Neenah Bland
Community Leadership Award



As CEO of Albany Community Action Partnership, Neenah Bland’s primary responsibility is to champion our mission of moving families towards economic security and an improved quality of life. Ms. Bland is working with her staff and the community to ensure all families are provided with opportunities that support the experiences they need to compete in a global society. Ms. Bland has over 25 years of experience working with children and families in the Albany area. She holds a Master’s Degree in Education from The College of Saint Rose, a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from the University at Albany and a host of experience in the fields of executive management, counseling, group facilitation, program design and development, staff development, cultural diversity and grant writing.



Reverend Joy Marie Barrett- Howard
Humanitarian Award

A native of Albany, NY and reared in NJ. Her dedication and passion for, her community has grown exponentially with each passing moment. She has spent decades committed to Albany's youth, through her work in the field of Special Education, and Cultural Responsive Education to Albany's revitalization, shepherding the Frank Chapman Memorial Institute, Inc. through the next level of its Neighborhood Transformation; and to our spiritual enlightenment, as a devoted Reverend and Religious Leader. The Executive Director of Frank Chapman Memorial Institute, Inc. and Executive Pastor of Sweet Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church Reverend Joy is blessed to be the wife of Deacon Harry Howard, mother of one son, beloved daughter, sister, GlamMa and God Mother to many. Her passion, drive and love for her community is intentional and exemplifies her focused driven mindset to always advocate, educate, and encourage everyone.

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Black Business Award



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*Thank
you*

for everything you have done for CNYS BLACK EXPO. All the hard work you put in all year. I would like you to know that I recognize, as well as appreciate the hard work that you do. Let's make this year's Black Expo unforgettable for our community.

- From, Tatiana ❤️

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