

The West Indian Social Club of Hartford's

# 75TH DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY



*Honoring our Cultural Heritage and Celebrating  
our Caribbean History.*

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**75<sup>th</sup>** **DIAMOND**  
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*Anniversary*



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Congratulates the West Indian Social Club on 75 years

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*On their 75<sup>th</sup>*

**Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Celebration**



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***westindiansocialclub.org***

**CONGRATULATION**

***Dr. Marcia Anderson- Esson. WISC Legacy of Service Award***

# Congratulations

*West Indian Social Club*

*on your*

# 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*"The dream and legacy of the Founding Fathers lives on."*



*Caribbean Trade Council*

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# RIU

HOTELS & RESORTS

JAMAICA



# Honoring Our Cultural Heritage and Celebrating Our Caribbean History



On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc, welcome to our Diamond Jubilee Celebration – 75 Years.

As we gather to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, we reflect with deep pride on 75 years of legacy, leadership, and cultural excellence. Our theme, “Honoring Our Cultural Heritage and Celebrating Our Caribbean History,” reminds us of the strength, resilience, and vibrant spirit that our community has carried across generations.

We honor the generations before us who carried their culture, faith, and values from the Caribbean and built a foundation of opportunity and belonging. But we also recognize the incredible strength of the community that embraced this vision and supported it through every chapter. Your commitment, trust, and love have sustained this organization for 75 remarkable years.

This milestone is more than a celebration, it is a promise. A promise to keep bridging generations, to create space for young leaders to grow and thrive, and to remain grounded in the values and heritage that shaped us.

As we honor our past and celebrate our culture, we also look ahead with hope. The road forward will require unity, purpose, and continued support from every corner of our community. We hope the bond we’ve shared over these 75 years remains strong, enduring, and full of possibility for generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us, growing with us, and celebrating with us.

Happy 75th Anniversary!

Thank you.

*Beverly M. D. Redd*, Chair  
**West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc.**

## Board of Directors

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# *Congratulations*

to the  
West Indian Social Club of Hartford on your  
75th Anniversary.

From



**Wayne I. Benjamin**  
Principal

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Congratulations to the West Indian Social Club of Hartford on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Your tireless and sustained effort to improve the lives of the people of Hartford and surrounding communities has been immeasurable. May you continue to strive for a greater and more equitable Hartford. We look forward to the continued success of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford has brought to our community.



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***Congratulations**  
West Indian Social Club*

***On Your 75th  
Anniversary***

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***Congratulations**  
To The West Indian Social Club  
On Your 75th  
Anniversary*



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**Arunan Arulampalam  
Mayor**

April 14, 2025

West Indian Social Club of Hartford  
3340 Main Street, Hartford CT

**RE: Congratulations on 75 years of heritage and history**

Dear members of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford:

I write to express my congratulations as you celebrate 75 years of empowering members of our community. This milestone not only reflects the commitment of the organization to honor your heritage and celebrate Caribbean history, but also the rich contributions that the West Indian Social Club of Hartford has made over the last seven-and-a-half decades.

As we gather to celebrate the West Indian community, I encourage attendees and club members alike to reflect on the lives that have been impacted by your advocacy and look towards the future with renewed energy and determination. I am truly honored to be an Honoree for this year's celebration – I am forever grateful for the contributions of the social club to our city.

Congratulations again on your long-enduring achievement. I look forward to celebrating the continued impact and success of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford.

In partnership,

**Arunan Arulampalam Mayor**



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Marilyn.Rossetti@hartford.gov



*Congratulations!*

to the

West Indian Social Club on reaching the remarkable milestone of 75 years!

As fellow advocates for community and culture,

we admire your commitment to fostering unity and celebrating heritage.

Here's to the cherished memories you've created and to the bright future that lies ahead!

Congratulations to the Awardees being recognized for their contributions in the community.



**West Indian Social Club  
Of Hartford**



*Save the Dates!*

*3rd Annual Scholarship*  
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## Acknowledgment in Celebration of the West Indian Club of Hartford's 75th Anniversary



It is with profound pride and heartfelt congratulations that I, Lorenzo Harewood, Consul General of Barbados at New York, extend warm greetings and commendations to the West Indian Club of Hartford on the joyous occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

Since its founding in 1950 by a determined group of Caribbean migrant farm workers, the West Indian Club has stood as a shining beacon of unity, cultural preservation, and community empowerment. Your commitment to honoring our rich Caribbean heritage and providing educational, cultural, and social support to generations of West Indian families has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Seventy-five years is a remarkable milestone — a testament to the vision, resilience, and hard work of the Club's founders, leaders, members, and supporters. Through changing times and evolving needs, the West Indian Club has remained steadfast in its mission to create a home away from home for Caribbean nationals, ensuring that the traditions, values, and vibrancy of our region continue to thrive on North American soil.

As you celebrate under the inspiring theme, "Honoring Our Cultural Heritage and Celebrating Our Caribbean History," we reflect with gratitude on the many ways you have enriched the lives of countless individuals and families. You have nurtured pride in our identity, championed the power of community, and illuminated the enduring contributions of Caribbean peoples to the broader tapestry of American society.

On behalf of the Government and People of Barbados, and the Barbadian Diaspora across the United States, I salute the West Indian Club of Hartford for its 75 years of distinguished service. May this celebration not only honor the past but also inspire a future filled with continued success, growth, and unity.

Congratulations once again on this outstanding achievement. May your next 75 years be even more impactful and inspiring!

With warmest regards,

**Lorenzo Harewood**

Consul General of Barbados at New York

*Tonight, we Toast the WISC of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



*"And he said unto them, look on me, and do likewise" Judges 7:17*



*The Redd Flowers Foundation*

*Doreth "Dee" Flowers and Carey E. Redd, II,  
"In God We Trust"*



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CONSUL GENERAL

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W: [congenjamaica-ny.org](http://congenjamaica-ny.org)

### **Message from Consul General Wilson for the West Indian Social Club of Hartford's 75th Anniversary Gala**

It is with great pride and heartfelt congratulations that I extend warm greetings on behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica to the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc., as you celebrate your 75th Anniversary Gala under the inspiring theme, "Honoring Our Cultural Heritage and Celebrating Our Caribbean History."

Since its founding in 1950 by visionary Caribbean migrant farm workers, the West Indian Social Club has stood as a beacon of unity, resilience, and cultural pride. For three-quarters of a century, you have nurtured generations, preserved our shared heritage, and empowered the Caribbean diaspora across Connecticut and beyond. Your unwavering commitment to education, civic engagement, and cultural preservation continues to uplift our communities and inspire future leaders.

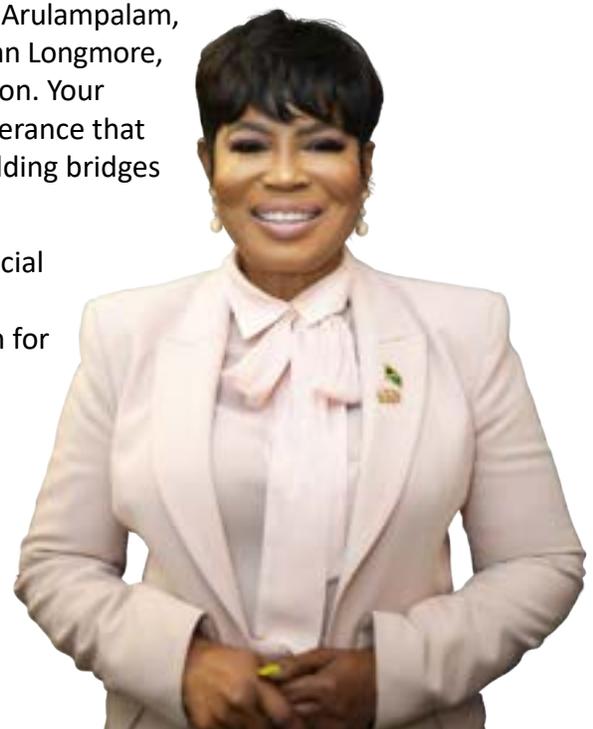
This evening, as we gather in the historic People's Ballroom, we celebrate not only the Club's remarkable legacy but also the outstanding individuals whose contributions have enriched our Caribbean-American experience. Among these distinguished honorees is my esteemed colleague, Consul General Jeremiah Hyacinth of Saint Lucia. Consul General Hyacinth's exemplary leadership, dedication to public service, and tireless advocacy for Saint Lucians in the diaspora have set a standard of excellence. His initiatives—from cultural diplomacy to humanitarian outreach—reflect the very spirit of unity and service that this gala embodies.

I also extend my heartiest congratulations to the other honorees: Gracelyn Stewart, Mayor Danielle C. Wong, Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Mayor Arunan Arulampalam, Antoinette Lazarus, James Michel, Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson, Donovan Longmore, Cwen Williams, Dr. Troy A. Monroe, and the Honorable Shirley Surgeon. Your achievements are a testament to the strength, creativity, and perseverance that define our Caribbean identity. Your stories inspire us to continue building bridges across generations and borders.

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, I salute the West Indian Social Club of Hartford for 75 years of transformative service. May this Diamond Jubilee be a joyful reflection of your past and a radiant beacon for the future.

With warmest regards and continued solidarity,

**Mrs. Alston Wilson, OD.**  
Consul General of Jamaica  
Consulate General of Jamaica, New York



# Congratulations

to the  
West Indian Social Club of Hartford on your  
75th Anniversary  
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## Congratulatory Statement

Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of Jamaica, Lishann Salmon

On the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Connecticut



From humble domino games in borrowed basements to a cornerstone of Caribbean cultural preservation, the West Indian Social Club of Hartford stands today not merely as a building, but a living testament to the resilience of immigrants and a vision that refused to be dimmed by foreign soil or frigid New England winters.

It is with profound pride and deep admiration that I extend warmest congratulations to the West Indian Social Club of Hartford on this momentous 75th anniversary celebration. I must reserve special recognition for 102-year-old Jamaican national treasure, Mr. Kenneth Bennett Sr., the sole surviving founding member whose century-spanning life mirrors the very journey of perseverance this institution embodies. Mr. Bennett, your hands helped lay the foundation for what has become not just a social club, but a beacon of Caribbean identity far from our shores.

These founders—tobacco field labourers who arrived with calloused hands but unbowed spirits—proved that humble beginnings need not dictate destination. While America promised prosperity, it delivered winter and alienation. Yet where others might have retreated into isolation, these visionaries carved out a corner of the Caribbean in Connecticut’s heart. They demonstrated that leadership requires neither titles nor privilege, only vision and determination.

The club’s evolution from weekend domino games and makeshift cricket matches to its impressive Main Street headquarters speaks volumes about West Indian tenacity. This progression wasn’t merely physical but represented the community’s growing influence and self-determination. When told a benevolent society “Could not be done here,” they simply found another path forward. Caribbean pragmatism at its finest.

What began as a predominantly male enterprise wisely expanded to embrace women’s leadership through the Ladies Auxiliary in 1954. This acknowledgement that cultural preservation requires all voices foreshadowed the inclusive community hub the club would become. One wonders how much sooner even greater heights might have been reached had women been included from the start—a reflection worth considering as we chart the next 75 years.

The establishment of the West Indian Independence Celebration Committee and the West Indian Foundation in 1978 elevated the club’s impact beyond social gatherings into educational, cultural, and civic realms. The vibrant annual celebration now draws visitors from across the globe, a cultural Mecca whose economic impact on Hartford likely surpasses anything the original tobacco companies could have imagined when they first imported West Indian labor.

These hallowed halls have witnessed the rise of community leaders who transcended the club’s boundaries to reshape the political landscape of Hartford and the contiguous cities of Windsor and Bloomfield. From council

members and legislators to mayors, leaders like Councilwoman Veronica Airey-Wilson, Dr. Alfred Dyce, Noel McGregor, and Guy Jacobs emerged from resilient families whose influence extended far beyond Main Street. This “home away from home” has served as both sanctuary and launching pad, incubating leadership that refused to accept marginalisation and instead chose to thrive.

As we celebrate this diamond milestone, we must acknowledge that the journey has not been without challenges. Cultural institutions like the West Indian Social Club face constant pressure to modernise while preserving tradition, to welcome newcomers while honouring founders, to expand influence while maintaining authenticity. The fact that the West Indian Social Club has navigated these tensions for three-quarters of a century is perhaps its greatest achievement.

The magnificent centre that stands today on Main Street is more than mortar and brick—it is the crystallisation of immigrant dreams made manifest through decades of sacrifice. From those first meetings in St. Benedict Church Hall to today’s hub of Caribbean cultural celebration, the club remains what its founders intended: a bridge between the homeland they left and the future they envisioned.

May the next 75 years see the West Indian Social Club of Hartford continue to thrive as both guardian of tradition and catalyst for progress. In a world that too often forgets its roots, you stand as a reminder that our cultural heritage isn’t baggage to be discarded but treasure to be polished anew by each generation.

**Ms. Lishann Salmon**  
Chargé d’Affaires a.i.  
Embassy of Jamaica

Hartford Federation of Teachers, Local 1018  
*Congratulates*  
THE WEST INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB OF HARTFORD  
*on their*  
**75<sup>th</sup>**  
*Diamond Jubilee Anniversary*  
*Celebrating the 2025 Honorees!*

**hft**

Carol Gale, President  
Corey Moses, First Vice President  
Stewart Besford, Second Vice President

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*Congratulations*

**West Indian Social Club of Hartford  
On your  
75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration**

**WISC Legacy of  
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**100 Women of  
Color Award  
2024**

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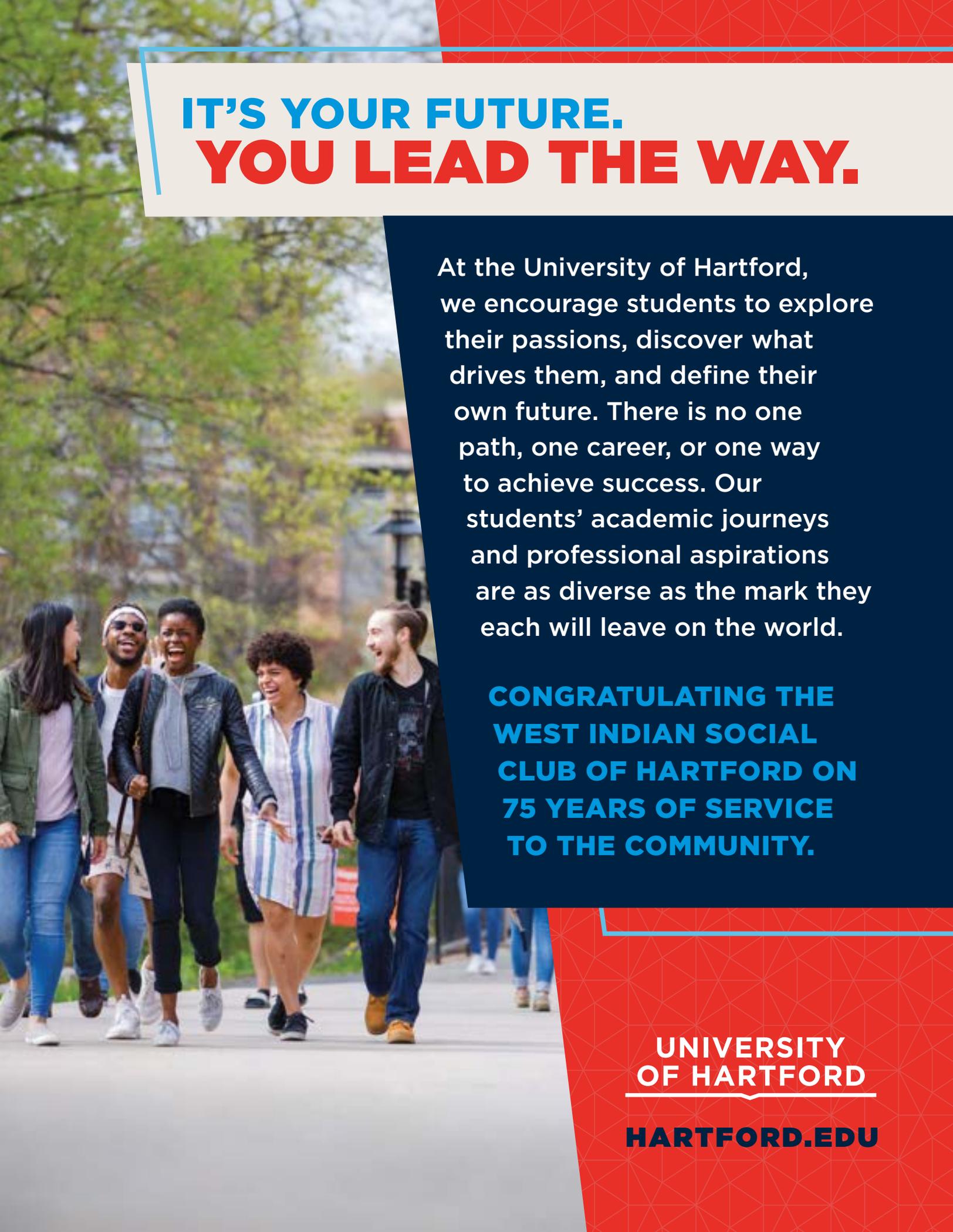


**Honorable Bobby Gibson**  
**Connecticut State Representative**  
**Deputy Speaker**

*15<sup>th</sup> District – Bloomfield, West Hartford*



**Congratulations to the West Indian Social Club of Hartford on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Thank you for all of the hard work you do for the community!**

A group of five diverse students (three women and two men) are walking together on a paved path outdoors. They are smiling and talking. The background shows green trees and a building. The image is part of a promotional graphic with red and white geometric patterns in the corners.

# **IT'S YOUR FUTURE. YOU LEAD THE WAY.**

At the University of Hartford, we encourage students to explore their passions, discover what drives them, and define their own future. There is no one path, one career, or one way to achieve success. Our students' academic journeys and professional aspirations are as diverse as the mark they each will leave on the world.

**CONGRATULATING THE  
WEST INDIAN SOCIAL  
CLUB OF HARTFORD ON  
75 YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE COMMUNITY.**

**UNIVERSITY  
OF HARTFORD**

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



May 3, 2025

Ms. Beverly M.D. Redd  
President & Chair  
West Indian Social Club of Hartford  
3340 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06120

Dear Madam President:

It is with great pleasure that I, Danielle C. Wong, Mayor for the Town of Bloomfield, extend my heartfelt congratulations to the **West Indian Social Club of Hartford** as you celebrate your **75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary**. This remarkable milestone is a true testament to your enduring legacy and the profound impact you've made in our community.

For three-quarters of a century, your organization has stood as a vibrant pillar of cultural pride, unity, and service in Hartford County. Your unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting West Indian heritage has not only enriched the lives of your members but also strengthened the broader community. Through events, educational programs, cultural celebrations, and charitable efforts, the West Indian Social Club has built bridges across generations and backgrounds, fostering understanding, pride, and connection.

The West Indian Social Club has become more than just a gathering space—it is a home for culture, conversation, and community empowerment. Your deep roots in Connecticut and your embrace of diversity have helped make our state a more colorful, inclusive, and dynamic place to live and thrive.

As you reflect on 75 years of remarkable achievements and look ahead to the future, we applaud your efforts and thank you for your ongoing role in shaping the cultural landscape of our region. May your next chapter be as inspiring and impactful as the legacy you've already built.

With admiration and best wishes,

Danielle C. Wong, Mayor



# THE WEST INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB OF HARTFORD, INC.

Est. October 27, 1950.  
75 Years of continued service.

3340 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
860 247-5659

WestIndianSocialClub@wiscoh.org  
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## West Indian Social Club of Hartford Members

Ogewu Agbese  
Phyllis Airey, Life Member  
Veronica Airey-Wilson, Past President & Life Member  
Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson, Life Member  
Byron Beckford  
Wayne Benjamin  
Kenneth Bennett, Sr, Life Member  
Kennth Bennett, Jr  
Clara Bennett  
Joyce Bennett  
Anthony Bonnick  
Carmen Boudier, Life Member  
Dermoth Brown, Past President & Life Member  
Nora Brown, Life Member  
Brent Brown, Life Member  
Codwell Campbell  
Frank Carmon  
Norma Cheeks  
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Raymond H. Davis, Past President & Life Member  
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Velma Simpson  
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Wayne Stapleton  
Lambert Sterling  
Elorie Steven  
Valmore Stewart  
Charles Taylor, Sr, Life Member  
Antonio Texidor  
Clyde Thomas, Life Member  
Cynthia Timoll, Life Member  
Lewis Timoll, Life Member  
Keith Tinker, Life Member  
Edwin Vargas  
Dr. Fiona Vernal  
Lenworth Walker, Past President & Life Member  
Racquel Walker  
Delva Weir, Life Member  
Roy Weir, Life Member  
Junior Wellington, Life Member  
Shauna Whitter  
Marva Wilks, Past President & Life Member  
Partick G. Williams, Chairman & Life Member  
Judith Williams  
Sheneen Williams  
Pearlina Williston, Life Member  
Victor Wilson, Life Member  
Jeanette Wint, Life Member  
Grace Wright



**Congratulations to the West Indian Social Club  
on 75 years of service to the community!!**

As the first Afro-Caribbean Mayor of Windsor, CT, and the proud daughter of migrant parents, it is with great honor and heartfelt pride that I extend my warmest congratulations to the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc. (WISCOH) on the occasion of your 75th Anniversary – a remarkable milestone and a testament to your enduring legacy.

For generations, WISCOH has stood as a cornerstone of cultural pride and community resilience. Founded in 1950, your organization has preserved, promoted and celebrated the rich tapestry of Caribbean heritage in Greater Hartford. Through vibrant programming, educational forums, cultural showcases, and initiatives such as the Miss West Indian Scholarship Pageant and the Hartford Carnival Musical Festival, WISCOH has remained a beacon of unity, identity and empowerment.

The Diamond Jubilee Gala, themed “Honoring Our Cultural Heritage and Celebrating Our Caribbean History,” reflect not only WISCOH’s commitment to cultural preservation but also its dynamic role in shaping our region’s economic, social, and artistic fabric. Your dedication continues to inspire generations to honor their roots while building bridges across communities.

On behalf of the town of Windsor, I thank you for your unwavering service, your commitment to excellence, and your powerful role in telling our shared story. May this 75th year be both a celebration of all you’ve accomplished and a springboard into an even brighter future.



With admiration and Caribbean pride,  
**Nuchette Black-Burke, M. Ed**  
Mayor, Town of Windsor, CT

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## Correction & Retraction Notice

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused by the production of our souvenir magazine. While we are unable to amend the printed copies, we have made the following adjustments based on feedback received:

1. Removed David Frazer's name from the Tribute page.
2. Added missing ads for Michael Chambers & Jamrock.
3. Corrected the TasteCT ad.
4. Included a QR code in the Snowflakes and Shadow ad.
5. Updated the Upcoming Events page ad.
6. Adjusted Richard Gordon's Tribute page and added a new QR code.
7. Revised "Meet the Stars" to feature Chair Redd.
8. Updated the sponsor page to include C&K Video Wall / Decor Team.
9. Updated Birthday Friday page - Added QR Code

*Thank you for your understanding and support!*



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# MASTERS of CEREMONIES



## Rev. Dr. Janice M. Hart

Rev. Dr. Janice Hart is a servant-leader, inspirational speaker, educator, and community advocate whose work has made a global impact. Armed with doctoral degrees in theology and philosophy, she combines scholarly

insight with a deep commitment to service. In New Haven, Rev. Dr. Hart spearheads weekly street ministry initiatives providing meals and hygiene items to individuals experiencing homelessness.

For 20 years, she has adopted 40 children from local shelters each Christmas, organizing gifts to bring warmth to their holiday season. Her global outreach includes supplying medical and school supplies to underserved communities abroad. Dr. Hart is a published

author of CHAT BOUT, endorsed by Harry Belafonte, and has been honored for her work at prestigious venues like Lincoln Center and the Apollo Theater.

She has been a guest at the White House twice, delivering her signature poem, "I Am So Glad You Came," in the House of Representatives. Her studies at Yale Divinity School and front-page feature in The New Haven Register highlight her contributions to pastoral education.

As a Certified Life Coach, Diversity Consultant, and recipient of numerous awards, including the Marcus Mosiah Garvey Award and the Lignum Vitae Award, Dr. Hart exemplifies excellence and dedication. During the pandemic, her support for Columbus House helped combat homelessness. An ordained pastor, following her late father's footsteps, Rev. Dr. Hart inspires others to live with empathy, integrity, and faith, embodying a life of purpose and compassion.



## Rev. Christopher A. White

Rev. Christopher A. White serves as the Youth Pastor at Rehoboth Church of God under the leadership of Bishop Jonathan Ramsey Jr. He leads Remnant Youth Ministry with a mission rooted in restoration, empowering young people to walk boldly in faith and purpose.

Known affectionately as "PC" by the youth, he is deeply loved for his joyful, energetic spirit and his ability to connect and inspire. Rev. White also works as a Special Education Educator Specialist and Learning Advocate in the South Windsor School District and is a dynamic Master of Ceremonies for various events.

He is happily married to Jessica White, and together they have two amazing sons, Ethan and Asa.

He is happily married to Jessica White, and together they have two amazing sons, Ethan and Asa.



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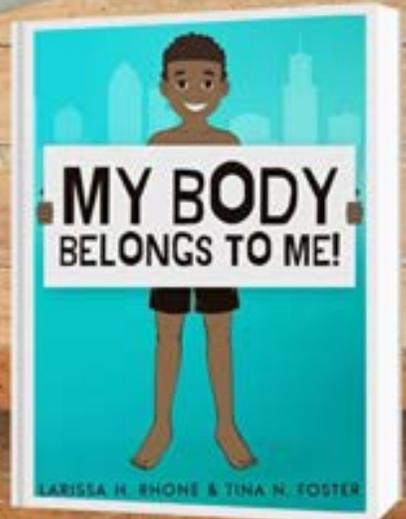
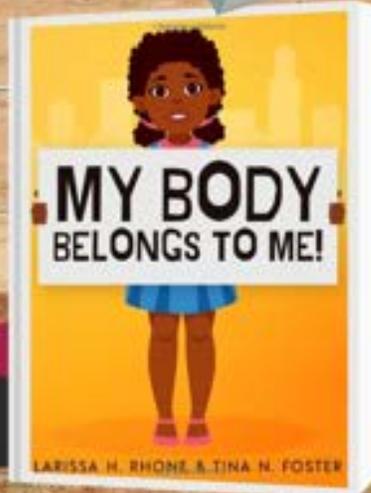
**Congratulations to the West Indian Social Club on your 75th Anniversary!**

*Larissa Rhone*



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**CHEERS TO**

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*Congratulations to the West Indian Social Club of Hartford on your 75th Diamond Jubilee. Reaching this 75th landmark is a dream for many organizations, but the West Indian Social Club of Hartford (parent organization to all) is living that dream now. As you celebrate this milestone, may you continue to grow and prosper.*

*Best wishes from  
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**Congratulations  
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# Celebrating 75 Years

## OF EMPOWERING YOUNG ADULTS

**C**elebrating 75 Years of Empowering Youth: The West Indian Social Club's Enduring Legacy For 75 years, the West Indian Social Club has been dedicated to fostering a strong relationship with the youth in our community. Our commitment to supporting and empowering young people has yielded remarkable results, shaped leaders, and inspired a new generation of change-makers. The Mr. and Miss West Indian Pageant: A Legacy of Scholarship and Excellence Our iconic pageant has not only crowned talented young men and women but has also awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships. This initiative has opened doors to educational opportunities, helping our youth achieve their dreams.

Mentoring and Guidance, beyond financial support, our members have provided mentorship, guiding young people through life's challenges. Many of our mentees have returned to pay it forward, supporting the next generation of leaders. Youth Programs and Achievements Our organization has hosted various youth programs, including, Boys Scout, we've helped shape young boys into men,

with some achieving the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Kaymani Hamilton Scholarship Established in memory of Kiymani Hamilton, one of our Eagle Scouts who passed away at a young age. This scholarship continues to inspire and support deserving young people. Special Thank you to his Grandmother Dr. Marcia Anderson Esson. The other two young men who became Eagle Scouts were Khalil Hamilton, and Gashaird Rhoden. Youth Tour to Jamaica, in 1994, our youth group embarked on a life-changing trip to Jamaica, participating in conferences, meeting leaders, and showcasing their talents.

Honoring Our Accomplished Youth Alumni We proudly featured three of our accomplished youth alumni in this 75th jubilee journal: These individuals, along with many others, have made us proud, becoming accomplished professionals and leaders in their respective fields. A Bright Future Ahead. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we remain hopeful and inspired by the next generation of leaders. Our legacy of empowering youth will continue to shape the future, guiding our community toward a brighter tomorrow.



**STEPHEN WILSON** is a dedicated community leader and proud father of five children, deeply rooted in Hartford, CT. Growing up in this vibrant city, Stephen developed a strong sense of community and a passion for service from an early age. A graduate of Weaver High School, he pursued a degree in Communications at the University of Hartford, equipping himself with the skills needed to advocate effectively for his community.

His commitment to education and community continued as he worked on the Weaver Steering Committee, where he played a crucial role in overseeing the renovation of the school, ensuring a better learning environment for future generations. Stephen's dedication to Hartford extends to his service on the Hartford Town Committee, where he actively participated in local governance and community development initiatives. Currently, he serves on the Hartford Board of Education, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to improving educational opportunities and resources for all students in the district.

With over 15 years of experience as a Project Manager across multiple industries including Aerospace and Financial sectors, Stephen brings a wealth of expertise in planning, execution, and collaboration to his community service. His professional background, combined with his deep understanding of local needs and challenges, allows him to make impactful contributions to Hartford's educational landscape and overall community well-being. Through his leadership and advocacy efforts, Stephen Wilson exemplifies the spirit of community engagement, inspiring others to invest in the future of Hartford and its residents.



**CAMILLE HUDSON** was born and raised in Bloomfield, CT, with proud Jamaican roots that have shaped her strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit. She has built a successful career spanning 20 years in Relationship Management and Sales within the insurance industry. Her passion for real estate and design led her to establish Red Door 424, LLC, a real estate investment company specializing in buying and selling distressed properties.

Through this venture, Camille transforms neglected homes into beautifully renovated spaces, helping to revitalize neighborhoods and create new opportunities for homeownership. Subsequently, she obtained her real estate license and joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices of New England, where she has successfully sold over \$20 million in real estate, further solidifying her expertise in the industry. Driven by her love for both real estate and design, Camille em-

barked on a new endeavor, founding Warehouse 635, an industrial-style event venue. In its first year, she hosted nearly 200 events, quickly establishing the venue as a sought-after destination. Camille's success was recognized when she received the 2023 Hartford Courant's Readers Poll Award for Best Event Venue, followed shortly by the 2023 Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce.

She is also a proud recipient of the CT Women's Business Development Council's 2024 Ignite Grant. Building on this success, Camille opened Loft 147 in Windsor, further expanding her impact in the event space industry. This marked a pivotal moment in her career, allowing her to fully immerse herself in her passions and continue making a meaningful impact within her community. Camille currently resides in Bloomfield, CT. She is a mentor to a lovely elementary school student through the West Hartford Public Schools Mentor Program, an active member of the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce, and a new member of the Windsor Chamber of Commerce.



**LEE ANNE DOUGLAS TROTMAN** is the founder of Onyx Seeds, a company focused on small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and professional development. She uses customized strategic strategies to help people and organizations evolve and grow through in-person, virtual experiences and strategic partnerships.

Being a wife and mom of twins coupled with over 20 years of consulting experience and a master's in organizational leadership and development, Lee Anne leverages empathy and deep expertise to help people and organizations identify new practices, build upon existing expertise, align their mission and vision, and elevate their potential for future success.

One of her mottos, "seek to understand," is driven by her natural curiosity. She graduated from Temple University with a bachelor's in accounting and earned her CPA certification. She started her career at PwC where she was an external auditor and consultant. While at General Electric's Water business she led a global strategic effort to consolidate their accounting systems, while earning her master's before joining KPMG. At KPMG she led training programs for auditors from interns to partners. In her external-facing role at KPMG she helped organizations through transformation projects leading to business efficiencies and improved processes. Currently she leads a global Strategic Support and Operations team for the Office of General Counsel division at Vanguard.

Story By:

**Commissioner Marva Douglas-Wilks**

Past Education and Youth Development Leader WISC  
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**~Janice Hart**



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# Attorney Elio Morgan Esq & Family Congratulates

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# introducing...

## THE WEST INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB



The West Indian Social Club of Hartford celebrates its 75th anniversary on May 3, 2025. Since its founding in 1950 by West Indian migrant farm workers, the organization has become one of the longest running and continuous Caribbean social organizations in the United States. The WISC grew into the pulse of Hartford's burgeoning Caribbean community from its initial location at Barbour St and its present site at Main Street. The origin story of this important pillar of the Caribbean community in the vision of West Indian farm workers is a testament to the hard work and dedication that has sustained the organization and brought it to this occasion of a Diamond Jubilee.

The WISC has never forgotten its roots in the history of war-time migration to the United States. Barely had Caribbean communities recovered from Depression-era economic woes than labor unrest gripped the region in the 1930s. World War II halted tourism and trade in agricultural produce. War-related manpower shortages throughout the United States ushered in new immigration opportunities for West Indian men to work in the agricultural industry. Some men came for these economic opportunities, others for a sense of adventure, curiosity, and possibility. They cut sugarcane in Florida and picked apples in Midwestern states. In Connecticut, the shade tobacco sector absorbed thousands of workers who netted, planted, and harvested tobacco. The labor of West Indian men in the 1940s gave New England, and especially the shade tobacco industry, an opportunity to compete for foreign labor alongside agricultur-

al conglomerates that advocated for Mexican workers. Some of these early workers became the original kernel of Hartford's West Indian population.

The tobacco fields and sheds were crucial spaces where African Americans and West Indians got to know each other. Here, everyone sized each other up and established new social networks. African American women also worked in tobacco, sewing the leaves together. Some love stories began here, like that of the oldest living member of the club from this generation of workers: Kenneth P. Bennett Sr and his future wife, Eva Mae McDowell. Like the African American youth and adults recruited to help address previous labor shortages, West Indian men also had an opportunity for social, athletic, and religious excursions into Hartford. As the small community emerged in Hartford, New York and Boston featured on the itinerary for cricket matches and occasionally to connect with friends or family members. Some of these West Indian guest workers, like Bennett, married African-American women and established a nascent West Indian-American presence in Hartford's North End.

Some of these West Indian farm workers met in the homes of their friends and colleagues and in St Benedicts Church. They saved, chartered an organization in October 1950, and eventually purchased and renovated a

multi-family residence at 353 Barbour Street as their first club house. West Indians yearned for autonomous social spaces with a welcoming social atmosphere. But the desire for a place of their own was not only in reaction to American style racism, social isolation, or restrictive living conditions. West Indians brought with them a rich heritage of social, fraternal, and religious organizing that inspired the goal of having their own social space. The West Indian Social Club hosted numerous social, economic, and political activities. If you wanted to play dominoes or join a cricket team, this was the place to be. Whether birth, marriage, or death, the Club was a site for numerous weddings, birthdays, retirements, anniversaries, baby showers, and repasts. Some people partied here regularly or saved their merry-making for Hartford's West Indian Week celebrations that began with Jamaica's independence on 6 August 1962, followed a few weeks later by Trinidad and Tobago's on August 31. Annual parades



West Indian Barbour Street By Riley Johnson

commemorated this important step in achieving Caribbean political sovereignty, and pageants connected young people to their heritage

The pioneering efforts of the West Indian Social Club led to the creation of the Women's Auxiliary in 1954. Women worked indefatigably to contribute to the success of the organization and its programming. The transition to Caribbean independence throughout the 1960s and 1970s paved the way for the creation of many other Caribbean organizations in Hartford. The Caribbean American Society was founded in 1957, its name a recognition of the dual heritage of Amer-



WISC Celebration 1965



WISC 91 Womens Auxiliary



West Indian Womens Auxiliary

ican and West Indian families comprising the growing community. The Barbados American Society, the Trinidad & Tobago American Society, the Jamaica Progressive League, Sportmen's Athletic Club, the West Indian Foundation, the Cricket Hall of Fame, the Jamaica Ex Police Association, the Caribbean Ladies Cultural Club, the St. Lucia American Society, and the Guyanese American Cultural Association are among the other organizations chartered as the number of Caribbean migrants grew. Successive presidents and members of these organizations hosted local political candidates as well as dignitaries and entertainers from the Caribbean.

By 2010, reforms to immigration policies and family reunification made the Greater Hartford area a major destination for Caribbean migrants, especially those from Jamaica. By the 2010 census, these demographic shifts made West Indians the largest foreign-born population in Connecticut. The West Indian Social Club has had a front row seat to the evolution of the Caribbean community in the Greater Hartford region. Its founding fathers started a tradition that speaks volumes to their vision of belonging, inclusion, and place-making in its 75 years. The West Indian Social Club stands apart as the mother organization, the progenitor and keeper of the legacy of a generation of founders who dreamt of making Hartford "a home away from home." They achieved more than that in making Hartford a Caribbean city.

*Dr Fiona Vernal, University of Connecticut, 2025*

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**“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”**

**Marcus Mosiah Garvey**, first National Hero of Jamaica has recently been pardoned by United States of America President, Joe Biden and Vice president Kamala Harris. The international foundation for the exoneration of Marcus Garvey founded by a group of committed community members and leading business operations in the Caribbean heritage were committed in their efforts to exonerate Marcus Garvey. We still have more work to do. We truly want to thank the congress of the United States, the black caucus supported by Former president Barack Obama who connected their efforts together for Marcus Garvey's exoneration. Charles Rangle chairman, of the house and means committee, did a great deal of work in a resolution 20 years ago. Former mayor Eddie Perez of the city of Hartford was very instrumental for the exoneration efforts. Congressman John Larson, Governor Lowell Weicker, Governor William O'Neill, Senator Edwin Vargas, Matt Ritter, Speaker of the House in Connecticut. The general assembly was instrumental in the creation of the Marcus Garvey place at the intersections of Granby, Cornwall, and Burlington Street, Hartford, Connecticut. The Marcus Garvey Place is permanently a place for Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and vacationers from all over the other states. We have a small monument already erected for citizens whose friends may sit down, relax, read a book, or the newspapers. The students from Weaver High School worked very hard in planting flowers and shrubs to make this a reality. We also gave scholarships to Weaver High school graduated and the Jamaica Progressive League in Hartford. Again, we on behalf of the board of directors want to say a hearty thank you. Sincerely, Dermoth H. Brown.



### **Dermoth and Nora Brown**

Congratulates the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc., on their Silver Jubilee Anniversary - 75 years of Continuous Service to the Greater Hartford Community. We are proud life-time members of the Organization. We wish the West Indian Social Club every success in their future endeavors.

**Congratulations also to our grandson, Ethan Brown-Thompson, a 2024 recipient of the Youth Award.**



## In Memory of Winston G. DeBeatham

We honor the memory of Winston G. DeBeatham—a cherished soul whose spirit continues to inspire us all. As we celebrate his enduring legacy, we also extend our heartfelt congratulations to the West Indian Social Club on its 75 years of community, service, and cultural inspiration.

Since its inception, your club has not only been a safe haven but also a vibrant center where Caribbean heritage and unity flourish. In living out the timeless adage, “To whom much is given, much is required,” your unwavering dedication to both the Caribbean community and the community at large shines as a beacon of hope and honor. May this milestone be a reminder of the power of service and the lasting influence of a life well-lived. We trust that your ongoing mission will continue to inspire, empower, and guide the next generation as profoundly as Winston’s legacy has touched our hearts.

With deepest admiration and gratitude,

*The DeBeatham / DeBeatham-Brown Family*



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**Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary West Indian Social Club!**

**Your survival and continued service to our diaspora and the greater Hartford community over the past 75 years has made every founding member proud to know their sacrifice was a sound investment.**

Crumbie Law Group joins a thankful community in shouting a collective and heartfelt thank you to all the honorees for their commitment and dutiful work in and around our community and we especially recognize and thank **The Honorable Danielle C. Wong; The Honorable Arunan Arulampalam; The Honorable Nuchette Black; The Honorable Shirley Surgeon; Ms. Antoinette Lazarus; and Mr. James Michel** for their steadfast commitment to professionalism and community service.

The Crumbie Law Group, LLC is the largest state-certified minority-owned corporate and business law firm in Connecticut. Our firm represents businesses and individuals in a broad range of legal matters and have become trusted counsel to many. We hope to earn your trust as well.

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DH Bolton Thanks our friend, champion, community activist and equal opportunity fighter for her compassion, passion, longsuffering and tireless efforts to ensure opportunities are afforded to the West Indian Community.

Council President Shirley Surgeon, on behalf of DH Bolton I thank you for your long and distinguished tenure of service to this community and to the West Indian Social Club for bestowing upon you this honor.

Congratulations on your Award for Leadership In Service to the Community

# Entertainers



## Archie Miller

BARBADOS CALYPSO ARTIST



Archie Miller's career started in 1972 in Barbados with the Folk Group, Campers 72. He received most of his musical knowledge from his uncle, Clarkson Prescott. He migrated to the USA in 1979 and continued his cultural expressions, serving as the co-cultural director of the URBONY Ensemble.

In 1983, he fulfilled his dream of becoming a calypsonian with his first song "Crop Over Jam". He went on to write and sing many calypsos, such as "Left Right Center", "Rum Shop Anthem" and "Hallelujah" to name a few. Mr. Miller made guest appearances in New York City at the Apollo and in Boston performing his breakout song "Left Right Center". In 2003, he was picked up by VP Records to do a compilation CD which he titled "Now & Then".

Mr. Miller acknowledges the love and support of his wife, family and friends who supported him throughout his career.



## Donald Thompson

TRINIDAD STEEL DRUM ARTIST



Musician Donald Thompson is originally from Trinidad & Tobago, home of the steel pan. His musical career began in Trinidad playing for the Army band as a drummer and then touring with "The Mighty Sparrow", enabling him to work with great artists and musicians.

After moving to the States in the early 1980's, he began playing with the Hartford Steel Symphony. Music has always been his passion, performing for various events all over the Northeast. He performs many genres, but is heavily rooted in traditional Caribbean Island Music, Soca, Reggae, Calypso and music from many contemporary artists.

Thompson loves to share his joy of music to all through the steel pan!



## Glenroy Samuels

JAMAICAN ARTIST



Glenroy Samuels is a seasoned guitarist, arranger, and songwriter with an illustrious career, spanning decades. As a former member of the Fabulous Five band for sixteen years, he collaborated with legendary artists such as Percy Sledge, Ray Gouldman, McFadden and Whitehead, Peaches and Herb, and Freddie Jackson.

Glenroy's exceptional talent has taken him worldwide, from performing for the US military in Abu Dhabi to gracing the stage for Prince Albert and Princess Anne in Monaco. His passion for music continues to inspire audiences and peers alike.



# DJ Carlton

Born in London, England, DJ Carlton moved to Brooklyn, NYC, in December 1972. He attended John Jay High School before joining the U.S. Army, serving from 1976 to 1981. While stationed in Georgia, he honed his passion for music by hosting parties, and upon completing his service, he returned to Brooklyn, where his DJ journey truly began.

His first experience behind the decks was at Club ZX, but it was LOVE PEOPLE ONE where he made a name for himself. From there, DJ Carlton went on to perform at legendary venues such as LATIN QUARTER, LEVEL 10, ACT THREE, CARBI NEW YORK, RED PARROT, AND CLUB ILLUSION, to name a few. His impact extended beyond clubs, as he also curated unforgettable boat rides and cookouts, further solidifying his legacy in the music scene. From 1981 to today, DJ Carlton's career has been a nonstop musical journey, bringing people together through rhythm, energy, and passion.

## Congratulations

### WEST INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB ON YOUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY



*We, the Kingston College Old Boys Association New England chapter, salute your vision and bravery.*

*Your efforts to preserve and promote our culture ensure future generations can trace the path of our struggles and achievements.*

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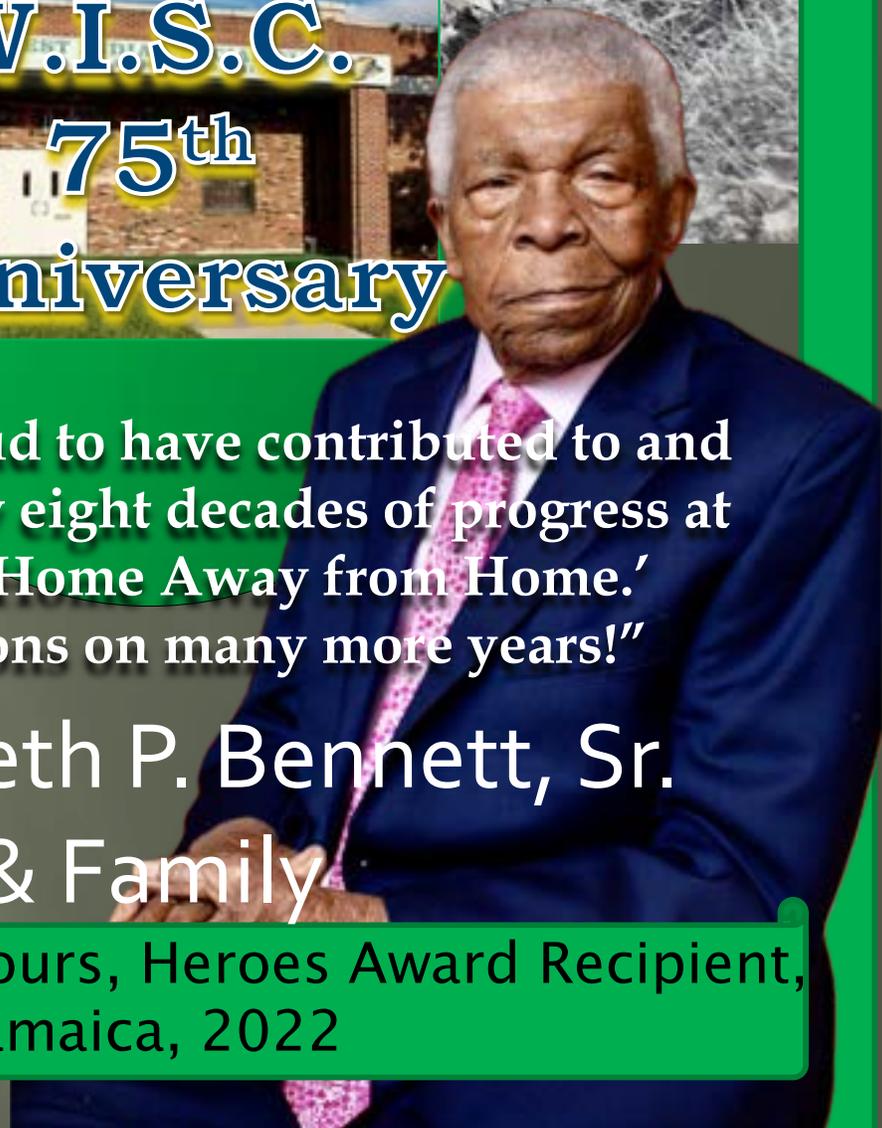
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**Mr. Kenneth P. Bennett, Sr.  
& Family**

**National Civil Honours, Heroes Award Recipient,  
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*Congratulations to our 2025 Honorees*

# 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala

ANNIVERSARY



**Antoinette "Annie" Lazarus**  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**Jeremiah Hyacinth**  
OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP



**Dr. Troy A. Monroe**  
EDUCATION



**Shirley Surgeon**  
LEADERSHIP IN SERVICE



**James Michel**  
HEALTHCARE



**Donovan Longmore**  
ARTS / MEDIA / ENTERTAINMENT



**Cwen Williams**  
E.S.K HAMILTON YOUTH & SCHOLARSHIP



**Gracelyn Stewart**  
COMMUNITY SERVICE



**Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson**  
LEGACY OF SERVICE



**Mayor Arunan Arulampalam**  
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



**Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke**  
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



**Mayor Danielle Wong**  
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



**Leroy Smith**  
MEMBER OF THE YEAR



**Beverly Redd**  
TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP



West Indian Social Club Of Hartford, Inc.

## MEET THE STARS

 [WestIndianSocialClub.org](http://WestIndianSocialClub.org)



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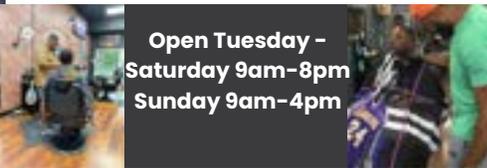
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**Some of our daily menu**

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 BROWN STEW CHICKEN  
 CHICKEN & FRIES

WHITING FISH  
 TILAPIA FISH  
 KING FISH BROWN STEW  
 KING FISH ESCOVITCH  
 SNAPPER BROWN STEW  
 SNAPPER ESCOVITCH  
 ONE POT STEAM FISH  
 ESCOVITCH FISH

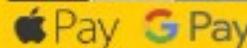
OXTAIL  
 CURRY GOAT  
 PEPPER STEAK  
 STEW PEAS WITH SALT BEEF  
 COW SKIN  
 COW FOOT  
 TRIPE & BEANS  
 JERK CHICKEN PASTA

ACKEE & CODFISH  
 CURRY CHICKEN BACK  
 CURRY CHICKEN FOOT  
 LIVER  
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# WISCOH Cricket Team

WISCOH cricket team has been a successful championship team over the years. They have won 3 championships within the last 10 years. The 2025 season will begin 4/27/25 when we look to defend and possible repeat as champions.



Please check out the WISCOH Cricket team page and download the 2025 game schedule. Please come out and support the team. Contact Frances if you would like to donate or support team at (860) 938-1196

Scan QR code to access the web page.



**GAME SCHEDULE & MORE**  
[www.westindiansocialclub.org/cricket](http://www.westindiansocialclub.org/cricket)

Please support the team through sponsorship  
and attending the games.

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## OUR STORY

In 1978 George and Pauline Scott opened the doors of Hartford West Indian Bakery Company Inc., on Albany Avenue in Hartford, Connecticut's North End. Their devotion to family and to this community is the keystone to their success and longevity. A cultural icon for the city of Hartford, the bakery now branded with the family name provides excellent Jamaican cuisine at accessible prices. The company motto remains true, "We Bake with Love".

**Congratulations  
to the West Indian  
Social Club for 75  
years of service.**

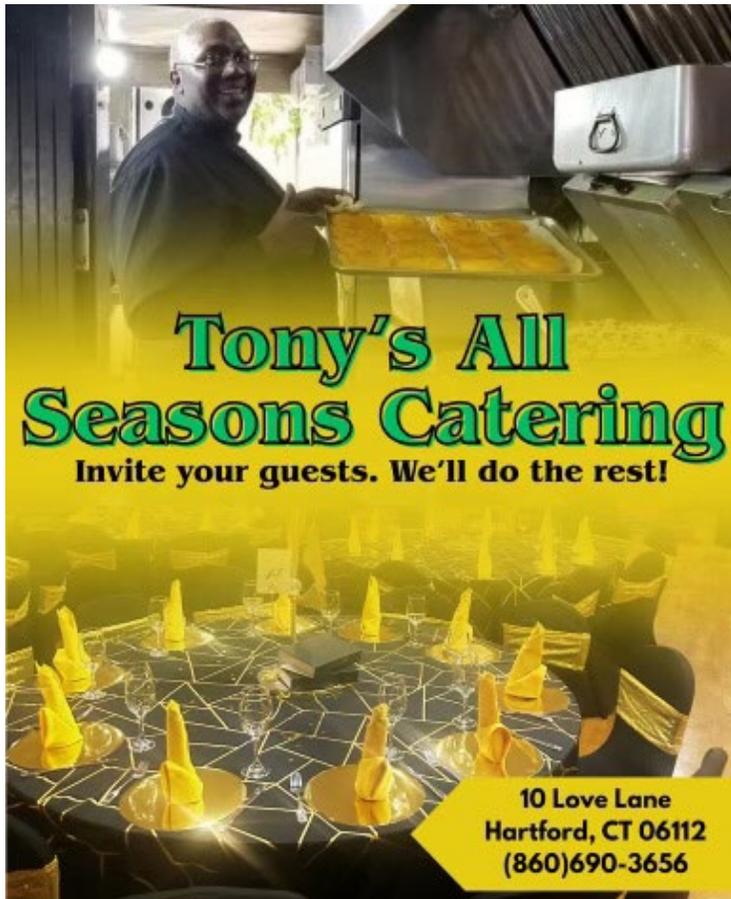


Congratulations to the  
**2025**  
West Indian Social Club  
75<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Honorees

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Rhoan, Daileann, Saige & Bryce



*Congratulations*

to  
Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson  
on your  
WISC Legacy of Service  
Award



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## **The West Indian Foundation Celebrates the West Indian Social Club of Hartford Anniversary!**

*The mission of the West Indian Foundation is to foster and strengthen a sense of unity within the West Indian community through strategic partnerships in the areas of health, education, business, and culture.*

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West Indian Social Club of Hartford

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.**

*And*

**Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson  
WISC Legacy of Service Awardee**

**100 WOMEN  
OF COLOR**

**GALA & AWARDS**



**2025  
HONOREE**

**ELORIE A. STEVENS, MSW, LSW**

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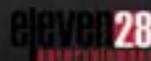
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**CONGRATULATIONS  
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CLUB ON YOUR 75<sup>TH</sup>  
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1962 - 2024

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Author, Community  
Trailblazer

Willie Mae Madden  
1927 - 2024

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Joseph Ward, Sr.  
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Happy **75th Anniversary** to the  
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The Lazarus Foundation extends its heartfelt  
congratulations to the distinguished 2025 Honorees

Antoinette "Annie" Lazarus  
Mayor Arunan Arulampalam  
Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke  
Consul General Jeremiah Hyacinth  
Council President Shirley Surgeon  
Mayor Danielle C. Wong

Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson  
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# 75th Anniversary Gala Program

## RECEPTION

### LIVE PERFORMANCE BY DONALD THOMAS – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Introduction of Master & Mistress of Ceremonies .... Past Pres. Veronica Airey-Wilson  
Open Remarks ..... Rev. Janice Hart, Rev. Christopher White  
Invocation ..... Mr. Kenneth Bennett, Sr

### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NATIONAL ANTHEM

### INTRODUCTION OF PAST PRESIDENTS

### INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W.I.S.C.O.H President/Chairwoman's Address ..... Ms. Beverly M.D. Redd  
Greetings from the Consul General of Barbados... Honorable Lorenzo Harewood  
Greetings from the Consul General of St. Lucia... Honorable Jeremiah Hyacinth  
Greetings from Senator Richard Blumenthal ..... Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Greetings from Mayor, City of Hartford..... Mayor Arunan Arulampalam  
Greetings from Mayor, Town of Bloomfield..... Mayor Danielle C. Wong  
Greetings from Mayor, Town of Windsor..... Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke

## DINNER

### LIVE PERFORMANCE BY GLENROY SAMUELS – JAMAICA

### LIVE PERFORMANCE BY ARCHIE MILLER – BARBADOS

## AWARD PRESENTATION

#### Business and Economic Development

- Antoinette "Annie" Lazarus

#### Outstanding Leadership Award

- Jeremiah Hyacinth, Consul General of St. Lucia

#### Education Award

- Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO of Jumoke Academy

#### Leadership in Service to the Community Award

- Shirley Surgeon,  
Council President, City of Hartford

#### Healthcare Award

- James Michel, CEO, Access Health CT

#### Arts/Entertainment/Media Award

- Donovan Longmore

#### Eagle Scout Kiymani Hamilton Youth & Scholarship

- Cwen Williams

#### Maryland Honoree – Community Service Award

- Gracelyn Stewart

#### Legacy of Service Award

- Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson

#### Community Leadership Award

- Mayor Arunan Arulampalam, City of Hartford
- Mayor Danielle C. Wong, Mayor of Bloomfield
- Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Mayor of Windsor

Vote of Thanks ..... Past President Veronica Airey-Wilson

## AN EVENING OF DANCE WITH DJ CARLTON

# F A M I L Y T A B L E T R I B U T E S

Heavenly Father, we gather in gratitude to celebrate and honor these remarkable individuals who have shared their talents, strength, and compassion with the world. We thank you for blessing them with the courage and wisdom to lead by example, inspiring others to follow in their footsteps. May words of love, encouragement, compassion be the language spoken tonight. May the meals shared at these tables tonight be a sign of joy and peace as we reflect on their lasting legacies let us all feel the presence of their love.

## H O N O R E E S

Clariana Airey

Narciso Airey

Collin Bennett

Winifred (Molly) Bennett

Jacinta Davis

Pareto Decardova

Oscar Downer

Sydney Downer

Camille Fisher Williams

Kaymani Lloyd Hamilton

(Eagle Scout)

Auvita Mckenzie

Cedric Newman Sr.

Lottie Mae Newman

Lowell (Slim) Sutherland

Katheleen Sutherland

Zerepha (Gee Gee) Sutherland-Johnson

(Former Ms West Indian)

Sylmerris (Pinky) Sutherland-Khan

Horace Valentine Wint

# WISCOH 2025 HONOREES



## MEMBER OF THE YEAR

**Leroy Smith**



Leroy Smith is the founder and owner of Smith & Associates Accounting Services, specializing in accounting and tax services for individuals, small businesses, and non-profit organizations. He is also a Supervising Accounts Examiner with the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD), providing economic development assistance to businesses, municipalities, and non-profit organizations.

Leroy is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in Connecticut and holds degrees in economics from Fairfield University and accounting from Central Connecticut State University. During 2024-2025, Leroy served as a Windsor Town Councilman and has been an active member of the Windsor Democratic Town Committee, nominations committee, and human relations committee.

He also represented Windsor on the Caribbean Soccer Association, including Bloomfield, Windsor, and Hartford. Leroy is deeply committed to community service. He volunteers as the property manager for his church in South Windsor, supporting local fam-

ilies with food, clothing, and shelter. He also serves as treasurer for the West Indian Foundation in Bloomfield, Connecticut, offering accounting expertise. Guided by his belief that true happiness comes from serving others, Leroy dedicates his time to uplifting his community.

His favorite Bible verse, Matthew 25:40, reflects his commitment to helping those in need: "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

## The DiBella Family

*Congratulates*

**Hartford City Council  
President Shirley Surgeon**

**on receiving the Leadership in Service to Community Award.**



CONGRATULATIONS  
— TO THE —  
WEST INDIAN SOCIAL  
CLUB OF HARTFORD  
CELEBRATING YOUR  
75<sup>TH</sup> DIAMOND  
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY

We commend the Officers & Members  
for continuing the legacy of serving  
as a Pillar for the Caribbean &  
Americian community over the years.

**JAMAICAN ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND (JAM)**

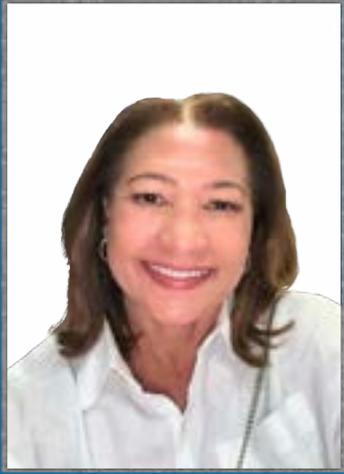


**REMINDER!**

**Our Annual Jamaican Independence Gala  
is Saturday, August 9, 2025 @ Martin's West,  
6817 Dogwood Road. For info: 410-908-0123**



## BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD ANTOINETTE LAZARUS



**Antoinette “Annie” Lazarus** is a trailblazing servant leader, known for her integrity and intellect. Her corporate achievements and philanthropic spirit have established her legacy as a distinguished global citizen. The second eldest of 12 children, Annie has always led by example, uplifting others as she climbed the corporate ladder.

In the early stages of her career, Annie dedicated over 25 years to the West Indian community as a founding member of the West Indian Credit Union; provided computer, numeracy, and literacy training at The Center for Urban Research Education & Training; and authored FollowTheMoney in the West Indian American newspaper to promote financial literacy.

Annie advocates for affordable housing and economic development through her board service for Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, Housing Development Fund, Jewish Family Services, Bushnell, and the Hartford Community Loan Fund. She empowers women, girls, and marginalized supporting organizations like YWCA Hartford Region, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and American Friends of Jamai-

ca. Her service to others has earned her numerous accolades, including the title of “Wonder Woman” (Malta House, 2019) and “Woman of Distinction” (Hartford Business Journal). Annie has held senior roles at multinational financial institutions, including Ares Management, Landmark Partners, Prudential Financial, CIGNA, Aetna, and Phoenix Equity.

She holds an MBA in Finance (University of Hartford), a BS in Physics (Fairfield University), and respected certifications such as IACCP, CRCP from The Wharton School FINRA Institute, CAMS, and the CFA Certificate in ESG Investing. Locally and abroad, Annie graciously offers a helping hand to many.



## OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD JEREMIAH HYACINTH Consul General - St Lucia



**Consul General Jeremiah Hyacinth**, born on September 22, 1978, in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, graduated as valedictorian of the first class of Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School in 1996. He earned a certificate in Mass Communication Arts from the University of the West Indies in 1998 before moving to the United States.

At Borough of Manhattan Community College, he served as student government president and later earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science with a focus on international relations from Columbia University.

In 2010, he launched the nonprofit Project Education, empowering underprivileged Saint Lucian children with school supplies and initiating the Breakfast for Education program. As vice consul at the Consulate General of Saint Lucia in New York, he implemented initiatives like promoting Saint Lucia on NBC’s Today Show, organizing artist exhibitions, and hosting networking events such as the Independence Marketplace.

Mr. Hyacinth received the 2014 Caribbean Life “Under 40 Award” and the

2016 Saint Lucia Mother’s Day Committee’s Community Service Award. He was also honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Saint Lucian American Association of Connecticut in 2018 for his commitment to Saint Lucian communities. Appointed Consul General in 2022, he became the youngest to hold the role, serving Saint Lucian nationals across the U.S. by addressing crises, immigration, and other matters.

Consul General Hyacinth views public service as a noble calling, striving to represent and support Saint Lucia with dedication and pride.



**J.A.H Financial Services**  
would like to Congratulate

**Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson**  
on her West Indian Social Club Legacy of Service  
Award 2025.



**Dr. Troy A. Monroe** is a native of Hartford, CT and began his educational career as a teacher in 1989 in Williamsburg James City County, VA Public Schools. Dr. Monroe earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Hampton University, a Master's Degree from Norfolk State University, attended the College of William & Mary



## EDUCATION AWARD

### Dr. TROY A. MONROE

CEO/Superintendent Jumoke Academy Charter School

to begin his doctoral studies, and later completed his Doctoral Degree from Central Connecticut State University. He became a Middle School Administrator in 1995 in Newport News, VA before continuing his administrative career in multiple towns in Connecticut where he served as Assistant Principal and Principal during his tenure.

In 2004, as the school's first African American Principal, Dr. Monroe led Keigwin Middle School, in Middletown, Connecticut, to earn the distinct honor as the Connecticut Association of Schools Middle School of the Year. Under his leadership during his four-year tenure as Keigwin's Principal, Dr. Monroe and his faculty and staff worked hard to build relationships with students, parents, and community. He made student achievement,

school culture and climate, staff professionalism, and parent/community engagement priorities during his tenure. After leaving the district in 2006, Dr. Monroe became a Middle School Principal in Manchester, Connecticut Public Schools prior to becoming the Director of Teaching Learning and Equity for the same district. Dr. Monroe has served as an Academic Director for a Charter School Management Organization (CMO) in 2013 and later became the Executive Director for Jumoke Academy Charter School Inc. in 2014, a three-campus charter school serving scholars from around the Greater Hartford area and surrounding towns.

Today, Dr. Monroe is the CEO/Superintendent of Jumoke Academy Charter School in Hartford, Connecticut.



**Shirley Surgeon**, born in Kingston, Jamaica, inherited a mission from her parents to uplift her community and create a better future for generations to come. A long-time resident of Upper Albany, she has spent over three decades actively transforming Hartford through fearless leadership and compassion.



## LEADERSHIP IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

### SHIRLEY SURGEON

Council President, City of Hartford

Shirley serves as a board member of the Upper Albany Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ) and has contributed to organizations like the Hartford Public Library and the West Indian Foundation. As a City Council member, Shirley focuses on economic development, homeownership, and small business support, driving revitalization projects across Hartford. Formerly the sole Chair and now Co-Chair of the Planning, Economic Development, and Housing Committee, she thoughtfully evaluates development proposals to ensure positive impacts on the city's future.

Shirley's dedication extends to major projects like the Barbour Street Library and Albany and Woodland development. Known for her daily drives through the city with coffee in hand,

she meticulously observes and advocates for improvements. As the first Jamaican-American woman to serve as Council President, Shirley inspires women, immigrants, and future leaders, including her grandson, to fight for their communities. With a background in business and economics, Shirley's political insight stems from roles as a City Council Aide, Registrar of Voters, and assistant to former Governor Malloy.

A proud UCONN alumna and lifelong advocate, Shirley Surgeon is celebrated as a transformative leader, a symbol of change, and a fierce champion for Hartford and its residents.

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**James Michel**, born in Haiti, immigrated to the U.S. at age nine with his family, settling in Brooklyn, NY. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Access Health CT (AHCT), Connecticut's Health Insurance Marketplace under the Affordable Care Act. Joining AHCT in 2013, James initially served as Head of Operations, later as Head of



## HEALTHCARE AWARD JAMES MICHEL

Finance, and was officially appointed CEO in 2018.

His focus includes reducing uninsured rates, strengthening the AHCT brand, improving customer experience, and ensuring organizational sustainability. Previously, James was Audit Director at Aetna's Finance Department for eight years and Chief Financial Officer at the Metropolitan District Commission in Hartford, CT, for nine years. He has held leadership roles such as Chairman of Outreach to Haiti, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Jumoke Academy, and Trustee at Suffield Academy.

James is a U.S. Army Reserves veteran, honorably discharged after 18 years of service. He holds an MBA from the Barney School of Business at

the University of Hartford, a Bachelor's in Accounting from Brooklyn College, and completed graduate studies in Accounting and Economics. Residing in Bloomfield, CT, with his wife of 30 years, James has three sons and three grandchildren.

His commitment to family and community defines his life and work.



**Donovan Longmore**, born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, is an entrepreneur with over 38 years of leadership experience across entertainment, finance, and healthcare. Migrating to the U.S., he committed to serving his community and the Caribbean Diaspora.



## ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT/MEDIA AWARD DONOVAN LONGMORE

Becoming a radio personality in 1988, Donovan hosted and promoted global forums, advocating for causes within the West Indian spectrum. He represents Connecticut's NE region on the Jamaica Diaspora Council, serves on task forces, and is VP of Marketing and Public Relations for Community Tourism in Jamaica, as well as an Ambassador for the African Union Region 6. Honored with awards such as 100 Men of Color and the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, Donovan credits his blessings to God and family.

A dedicated husband, father, mentor, tutor, speaker, and basketball coach, he hosts the TV series Long Talks and radio program Reggae Voyage on WESU 88.1FM and Fresh FM Radio London. He is CEO of reggae.university and co-founder of the D&J Long-

more Foundation, which supports children in Jamaica and Africa. Donovan also hosts the Miss Plus Size Universe International Pageant and spends weekends volunteering, cooking, and serving food to his community.

His commitment to community service and advocacy continues to uplift and empower those he serves. Email: [longmore4@gmail.com](mailto:longmore4@gmail.com) Website: [Reggae.University](http://Reggae.University)

Phone #: 1-860-777-7558

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AND DJ DONOVAN ON YOUR WISC AWARDS**

**Let's Talk Under the Reggae Tree Foundation,  
Family & Friends**

**Eagle Scout Kiymani L Hamilton Youth Memorial**

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**75** *DIAMOND  
JUBILEE*  
**Anniversary**



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-Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson, Treasurer-Tameka Nelson, Public  
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*Dr. Dean Rhoden*

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Donovan Longmore



*Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson*  
**PhD in Nursing, Minor in  
Health Ministry.**

**DR. MARCIA AND DJ DONOVAN ON YOUR WISC AWARDS**



## EAGLE SCOUT KIYMANI HAMILTON YOUTH & SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CWEN WILLIAMS



**Cwen Williams**, born to first generation Jamaican descendant Shari Williams, spent all 17 years of her life as a Hartford resident. Her passion for performing arts began at age three with the Caribbean American Dance Co. (CADCo), leading her to perform at events like the Big E, West Indian Social Club events, and school talent shows.

Cwen attended Capitol Regional Educational Council (CREC) schools, demonstrating a dedication to leadership as Secretary of Student Council, Student Senate, and Hartford's Youth Advisory Board. She advocated for positive change and organized community events that advanced Hartford. A highlight of her senior year was producing, directing, choreographing, and fundraising for her Capstone project, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.

Cwen's extensive musical theater experience includes leading roles with West Hartford Community Theater, The White Rabbit in Manchester, Hartford Stage Co., Act Up, and CREC schools. Her notable roles include Pamela in "Head Over Heels", Bobby Strong in "Urinetown", and Alice Beineke in "The

Addams Family". Her dedication to her craft earned her acceptance into prestigious musical theater programs at Marymount Manhattan College, Morgan State University, AMDA, and Long Island University. True to the meaning of her name, "Queen," Cwen is a driven artist committed to advancing her performing arts skills and community engagement.

She aspires to leave a lasting legacy that will impact the creative world and beyond.



## MARYLAND HONOREE - COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD GRACELYN STEWART



**Gracelyn Stewart**, a graduate of Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD, served as Area Director of Operations at Wendy's Corporation for over 44 years. A proven hospitality professional, she earned recognition as "Top Salesperson of the Month" multiple times.

She managed hiring, team performance, and development, fostering a welcoming environment for new employees.

Grace championed customer experience, streamlined operations, and ensured accountability while serving as a steward of Wendy's resources. In December 2024, Grace joined Sinai Hospital, focusing on proactively addressing patients' needs.

Over the past fourteen months, she has worked closely with nurses and addressed patient requests, such as dietary needs, while providing valuable solutions to departmental functions. She communicates effectively through notes, emails, and meetings, ensuring smooth collaboration. A charismatic leader, Grace combines kindness with accountability.

She mentors her team with her skills and experience and steps in to assist employees in need, embodying the essence of true leadership. She values teamwork, encouraging staff to carry their weight, support each other, and maintain positivity. She promotes a learning environment by fostering the exchange of skills and experiences.

Grace is deeply committed to community service, holding membership in the Jamaica Association of Maryland and serving as Customer Service Champion at Sinai Hospital. Additionally, she is a choir member at Life Source International Church.

Her leadership, compassion, and dedication continue to inspire those around her to strive for excellence.

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*On their 75<sup>th</sup>*

**Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Celebration**



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## LEGACY OF SERVICE AWARD DR. MARCIA ANDERSON-ESSON

**Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson** was born in Jamaica and trained in the UK as a nurse and midwife. She migrated to the U.S. in 1988, working at Yale New Haven Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, and Hartford Life Insurance as a Medical Nurse Case Manager.

She earned her BS degree from COSC, serving as a board member for 30 years and becoming its first Ambassador. Marcia is a lifetime member of WISC, holding roles such as Business Chair for 20 years, First VP, Trustee Board Member, and Co-Chair of multiple galas. She has volunteered with the Lions Club for over 20 years, earning awards including the Golden Chain Award, Tom Bingham Award, and Melvin Jones Fellow Award.

plies in Jamaica as Secretary of Let's Talk Under the Reggae Tree Foundation.

She actively engages in church outreach, pastoral care, and teaching, serving on committees and as a Sunday School teacher. She is a 100 Women of Color awardee and holds a PhD in Nursing, specializing in Leadership and Management.

Currently, she is Director of the Snellville Lions Club and its Foundation, and District Director for the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. As Hunger Chair, she distributed over 192,000 food boxes. Since 2017, Marcia has supported global mission trips by recycling eyeglasses through GLLF. She empowers youth and provides sup-

Marcia enjoys motivational speaking, traveling, painting, and poetry. Residing in Georgia and Connecticut, she is a mother of three and grandmother of five.



## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP APPRECIATION AWARD ARUNAN ARULAMPALAM Mayor of Hartford, CT

**Mayor Arunan Arulampalam** was sworn in as Hartford's 68th mayor on January 1, 2024. Born in Zimbabwe to Sri Lankan refugees, he is a father, husband, attorney, and former nonprofit executive dedicated to strengthening neighborhoods and building a Hartford that works for everyone.

Mayor Arulampalam made Hartford his home after graduate school. Before his election, he served as CEO of the Hartford Land Bank, creating a pioneering program to train residents as developers to address blighted properties and revitalize neighborhoods.

Mayor Arulampalam earned his B.A. in International Studies from Emory University and his J.D. from Quinnipiac University School of Law. He resides in Frog Hollow with his wife, Liza, Senior Minister of the First Church of Christ in Hartford, and their five children in a restored, formerly blighted home.

He also served as Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, where he fought for consumer rights and small businesses. Earlier, he worked as a lawyer at Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. and served on the boards of the Hartford Public Library, the House of Bread, and the Hartford Redevelopment Authority.

# Congratulations

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In Celebration of 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary



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*Peter James*

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Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson

2024 HONOREE



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MARCIA ANDERSON-ESSON

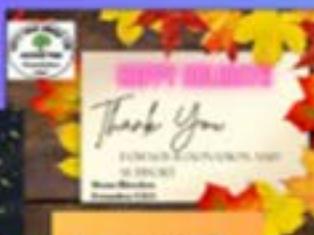
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DR. MARCIA ANDERSON-ESSON



**Mayor Danielle C. Wong**, a Bloomfield, Connecticut native, has been committed to her community for years. First elected in 2019, she brings over 15 years of experience in project management, human capital, and process improvement across industries like healthcare, non-profit, data protection, and civil engineering. Currently, she



## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP APPRECIATION AWARD **DANIELLE C. WONG**

Mayor of Bloomfield, CT

leads People & Culture in the civil engineering field, overseeing professional growth and workplace efficiency.

Her expertise in human capital and process improvement has made a tangible impact on organizations she's worked with. As Mayor, Danielle focuses on fostering economic growth, enhancing business development, and improving the quality of life for Bloomfield residents.

She is deeply committed to social justice and environmental sustainability, advocating for policies that uplift her constituents. Her passion for education, social justice, and community empowerment drives her efforts to create opportunities for all. In addition to her mayoral duties, Danielle is a political analyst for Capitol Report on WTNH

Channel 8, offering insights on political issues affecting Connecticut.

A proud daughter of Jamaican immigrants, she is deeply connected to her roots and culture. Her role as a mother to two daughters fuels her dedication to building a brighter future for families in Bloomfield. Mayor Wong believes impactful change begins with local action.

By working collaboratively with her community, she strives to promote inclusion, opportunity, and progress. She views public service as a way to create lasting positive change and enrich the lives of others.



**Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke**, the first Black woman and Caribbean Mayor of Windsor, CT, is a visionary leader known for fostering relationships and driving meaningful change. Respected for her strategic innovation and advocacy, she unites diverse communities with confidence and professionalism.



## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP APPRECIATION AWARD **NUCHETTE BLACK-BURKE**

Mayor of Windsor, CT

An award-winning community engagement leader, she has received honors such as the 100 Women of Color Award (2017), Community Service Awards, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award (2024). Passionate about uplifting underserved populations, she ensures every voice is heard. With extensive experience in civic leadership, education coordination, and nonprofit management, Mayor Black-Burke is a natural connector and changemaker.

A Licensed Minister and former Youth & Discipleship Director, she lives by Luke 12:48, "To Whom much is given, much is required," and embraces Shirley Chisholm's belief that "Service is the rent we pay while living here on earth." A dynamic public speaker, she has presented on family engagement,

equity, and justice-based systems at national conferences. She works with the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) as Training Facilitator for the Connecticut Home Visit Hub (CT-HVH). Mayor Black-Burke holds a Master's in Educational Technology (University of Hartford), a Bachelor's in Business Administration (WCSU), and certification from Harvard University.

A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she previously served as Second Vice President of the Hartford Alumnae Chapter. Married to Rev. Kirkpatrick Burke, she is the devoted mother of two sons and believes "serving is heart work," starting at home and radiating into the world.

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## **TRIBUTE TO THE WEST INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB'S FOUNDING FATHERS AND DECEASED MEMBERS**

In celebrating our 75th anniversary, we honor the enduring legacy of our founding fathers and late members, whose unwavering vision and leadership not only built the foundation of our organization but continues to inspire future generations and their impact continues to be felt today.

### **FOUNDING MEMBERS IN 1950**

Sydney Barnett	Seymour Henry	Norman Robinson
M. U. Brown	George S. Hudson	Rupert E. Ross
M. Barnett	Reginald Leslie	Constantine Simpson
Alfred A. Chambers	Montrose McCalla	William Spence
Alfred A. Clayton	David S. Mills, F. President	Lowell P. Sutherland, Sr.
Vincent N. Cockett Sr.	Oliver Millward	Eric A. Smith
Ferdinand Elliott	Alfonso Morris	Clifford Thorne
Sydney Farquharson	A. Morris	Francis Virgo
A. Ferron	Cedric S. Newman, Sr	Astley Williams
Albert Francis	H.M. Richards	Jethro Williams
Huglin Hanson	Joseph Roberts	Marcell B. Williams
Rainford Henry		

### **Remembering Our Deceased Members (2017-Present)**

We lovingly remember our departed members, whose dedication and service left an indelible mark on our organization and the community we cherish.

Alanzo Smith, 2017	Loi Martin 2020	Sydney Downer, 2022
Narciso Airey, 2018	Lascelles Reid, 2020	Edward Clarke, 2022
Alphoso James, 2018	Strafford Campbell 2021	David Cooke, (PP) 2024
Newton Cato, 2018	Parberto Decordova 2021	Richard C. Gordon (PP) 2024
Delores Carr, 2019	Allyn (Rocky) Nelson, 2021	Horace Wint, 2024
Zephen Heath, 2019	Keith Smith, 2021	Florence Wollaston, 2025
Winnifred Carter 2019	Oscar Downer 2021	Vincent Thaxter, 2025
Agnes Macbeth 2019	Milton Mitchel 2021	

### **Celebrating their Legacy**

The West Indian Social Club has been fortunate to have had such dedicated and accomplished members. Our deceased members have left an indelible mark on our organization and the community, and we are grateful for their service.

Report By;

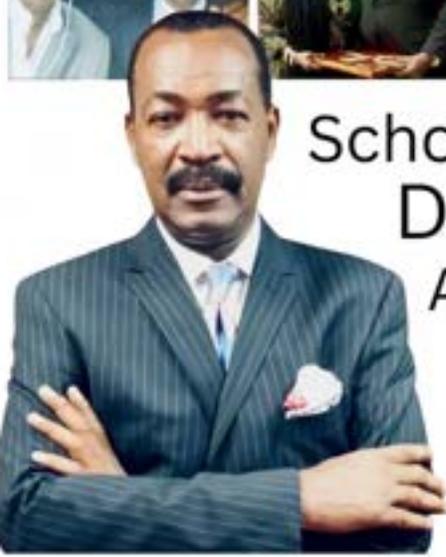
Marva Douglas-Wilks (Past President WISC)

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A legacy of community, culture, and connection deserves celebration. We wish you a joyous Diamond Jubilee and continued success for another 75 years and beyond!

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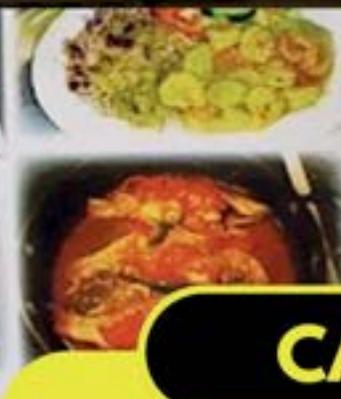


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Thank you for your  
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we wish you a happy  
retirement.



**#RANGER#**

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The West Indian Social Club of Hartford's  
**75th Diamond Jubilee  
 Anniversary**



**“A special thank you to the exceptional team who made this evening a tremendous success! Blessing to you all!”  
 -Veronica Airey-Wilson (Chairperson)**

**West Indian Social Club 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee Anniversary  
 Committee Members**

Ogewu Agbese	Andrew Lawrence	Fiona Vernal
Veronica Airey-Wilson(Chair)	Attorney Patrick Lyle	Racquel Walker
Marcia Anderson-Esson	Sheldon Morgan	Delva Weir
Lorraine Beckford	Frances Ocansey	Roy Weir
Judianne Daley	Leslie Perry	Shauna Whitter
Suzette Debeatham-Brown	Doreen Radway	Marva Wilks
Doreen Forrest	Beverly Redd	Patrick Williams
Claudette Graham	John Rhone	Aaron Wilson
Christine Grant	Velma Simpson	Bianca Wilson
Brittney Hall	Errol A. Smith	Stephen M.Wilson
Claudette Holmes	Elorie Stevens	
Vernette Joshua	Benita Touissant	

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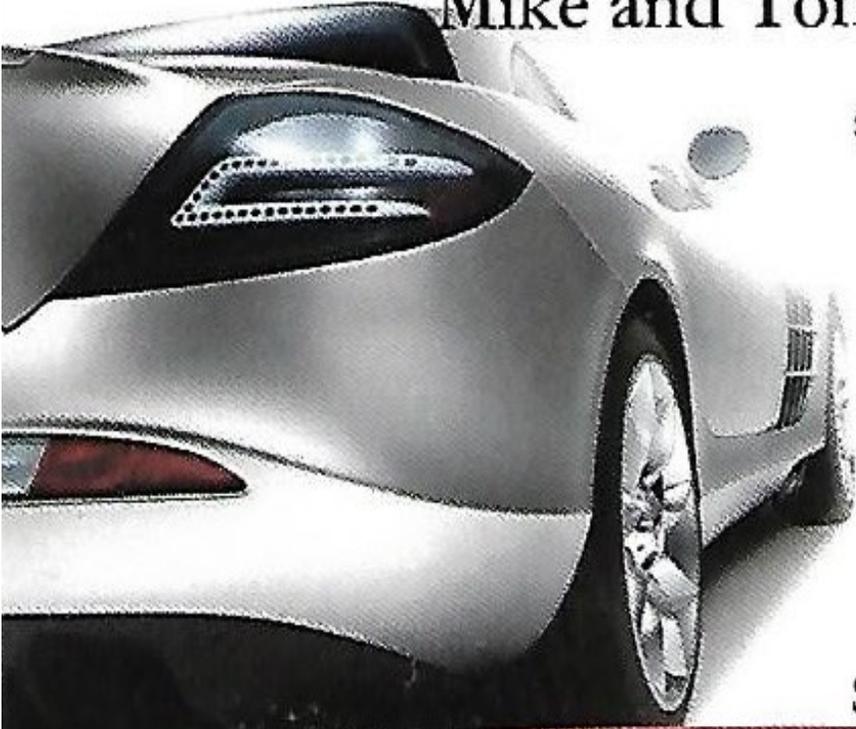
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*West Indian Social Club of Hartford Inc*  
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**75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary**

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**Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson**

**WISC Legacy of Service Awardee**





**Domino Tournaments**



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# Snowflakes & Shadow

West Indian Social Club  
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**Congratulations  
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Club for 75  
years of service.**

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WISC of Hartford

On your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Celebration  
and

Legacy of Service Awardee

Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson

From

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**Congratulations**

WISC of Hartford

on their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
and

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**LION DR. MARCIA ANDERSON-ESSON**

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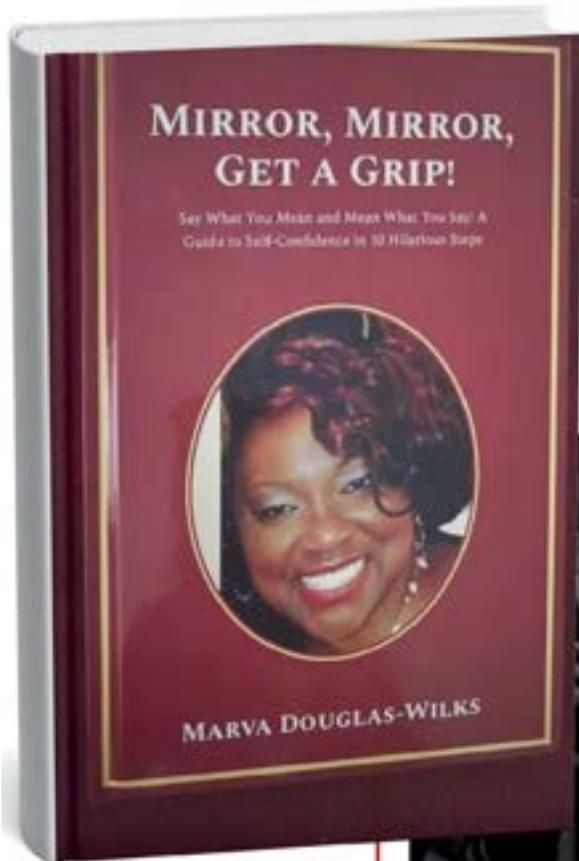
Congrats to:

Marcia A. Esson on achieving her doctorate in Nursing and being awarded LAGACY OF SERVICE' by the W.I.S.C.H.

Former President  
Leslie G. Perry  
&  
Family



**Congratulations to the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc.  
75th Anniversary From the Wilks Family**



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**Special Congrats to my cousin Dr. Marcia Anderson  
Esson on being one of this year's honoree for West  
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75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

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**2025**

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# Congratulations to The West Indian Social Club on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Mighty



- Congratulations to Dr. Marcia Anderson-Esson on her WISC Legacy of Service Award.
- “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” Mark 10:45
- Member since 1978
- Past 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President & Secretary





# Reflection

*on My Early Years at the WISC: Calling Their Names*

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford in 2025, I feel an urgency to reflect on my experiences and acknowledge long-standing members who laid the foundation of this organization up to year 2000.

In 1969, Mr. Cedric Newman, a founding member and then Membership Chairman, gave me an application. I joined under President David Cooke in 1970—a pivotal time when the Club was seeking a new home, as the City of Hartford needed the 363 Barbour Street location for housing development. Vice President Frank Jacobs, a realtor, located the property at 3340 Main Street, which was then a skating rink in the rear and a furniture store in the front.

In 1971, the property was purchased through the efforts of President Cooke, Vice President Jacobs, Treasurer Fitzroy H. Parkinson, and Trustee Chairman David S. Mills. Frank Jacobs became President in 1972, and under the leadership of David Mills, Secretary Keith Carr, and Vice President Alfred Clayton, the renovation of 3340 Main Street began. A loan was secured from a Black-owned bank led by Edward Barlow Jr.

The renovation team included Keith L. Carr (Coordinator), Leslie Perry (Assistant), David Mills (Trustee Chair), contractors Lee Jackson and Lowell Sutherland, electrician Hector “Pep” Anderson, plumber Lewis Timoll, and brothers Beres Cunningham and Winston “Nobby” Miller. Painters and decorators included Alfred Clayton, George Wollaston, John Palmer, Eric Thompson, and Leslie Perry (vinyl

wallcovering). Throughout the renovation, Chaplain Carmel Nelson and his wife, Earlene Nelson (Ladies Auxiliary President), offered prayers, while women like Clariana Airey, Mary Pinnock, Jacinta Davis, Edna McCarthy, and Margaret Mills prepared food for the workers.

In 1972, the newly renovated “West Indian American Center” opened, becoming a true “home away from home.” The Ballroom hosted community events, and the front served as the Social Club, a gathering place for games, meetings, and camaraderie. Founder Vincent Cockett managed the Social Club, Keith Carr coordinated ballroom rentals, and David Mills oversaw maintenance. The House Security Committee included Lloyd Henry, Parpeto DeCardova, Oscar Downer, Eucal Peart, Leslie Kerr, and Clifton “Willo” Dacosta. The Business Committee—Nehman Frazer, Fitz Jeremiah, Alphonso James, Eric Reeves, Loi Martin, and Fitzroy Parkinson—helped supply kitchen equipment.

I served as Vice President under Presidents Frank Jacobs (1973), Alfred Clayton (1974), and Alvin Watson (1975–1976), and was elected President in 1977 and 1978. I absorbed invaluable knowledge from founders and leaders. WISC’s influence grew locally, nationally, and internationally, attracting leaders from across the Caribbean and U.S. to our Independence Celebrations in August and Anniversary events in February. (Now April)

I learned that Mr. David S. Carter, the Club’s longest-serving president (1962–1967, 1979), along with Permittee Luther B. Christie, transformed the

Barbour Street bar into a successful business. President Carter, Jethro Williams, and Michael Reid initiated the West Indian Independence(Parade) Celebration in response to Jamaica's independence (August 6, 1962) and Trinidad & Tobago's (August 31, 1962). Initially ending at 363 Barbour Street, the parade later moved to 3340 Main and now concludes in Bushnell Park. Early parade included Boys Scouts under Oliver Milward and Michael Reid. Sons and Daughters, headed by Alphonso James and Carmel Nelson.

Sports like cricket, soccer, and dominoes were essential. Influential figures included Noel Elliot, Alan Best, Alanzo Smith, Oscar and Sydney Downer, Errol Hosein, Joseph Dixon, Lascelles Reid, Rodrick Riley, Clyde Thomas, Clive Freckleton, Ralph Paris, Nigel Bascom, Victor Braithwaite, Junior Wellington, Robin Davis, Allan Chambers and Richard Gordon.

Though WISC was originally male-only, a Ladies Auxiliary of wives was formed in 1954. From 1978 to 1983, Leslie Perry and Hugh Freaney championed the move toward a coed organization. Under President Dermoth H. Brown in 1983, women were officially admitted. Women like Earlene Nelson, Willie Mae Milward, Margaret Mills, Edna McCarthy, Patricia Alexander, Lottie Newman, Delores Carr, Perlina Williston, Winnifred Carter, Myrtle Townsend, Deta Martin, Rosemary Tate, Janet Mighty, Mary Thomas, Veronica Airey Wilson, Alred Dyce, Doreen Forest, Beverly Redd and many others played vital roles.

In 1978, under the leadership of Leslie Perry, Hugh Freaney, and Fitzroy Parkinson, the West Indian Foundation, Inc. was created. Key contributors included Dermoth H. Brown, Dorothy Billington, Alfred Chambers, Viola Higgins, Frank Jacobs, and Horace Johnson. Attorney Sydney Schulman and Hugh Freaney secured a 501(c)(3) status. Programs included after-school tutoring and summer school at Martin Luther King Elementary. Viola Higgins secured Shirley Chisholm as keynote speaker at the first fundraiser, chaired by Veronica Airey Wilson.

In 1990, Desmond Collins and Keith L. Carr Sr. joined and enhanced the Foundation. The Dwight Freaney Golf Tournament, supported by NFL player Dwight Freaney, raised funds for the WISC, Foun-

ation, and Independence Celebration. Dwight made annual financial donations. The Foundation expanded to include fine arts, youth cricket, and more. Joy Chance, Harold Harper and Sweets Wilson also contributed significantly. An Over 40 Committee addressing health issues was led by Cynthia Timoll, Florence Wollaston, Alphonso James, and Winnifred Carter.

In 1978, amid Jamaica's political unrest, Ambassador Alfred Rattray summoned state wide leaders to D.C., where NAJASO was formed. WISC was a founding organization, with Leslie Perry, Alfred Chambers, and Dermoth Brown as founding members.

I served as President again in 1993–1995. During this time, the Club hosted immigration forums and citizenship drives, resulting in voting rights and benefits for new citizens. Consular services were provided weekly at Collin Bennett's building in Hartford.

A Girl and Boy Scout Troop and Youth Auxiliary were formed, supported by Margarita Riley, Jeanette Wint, Wilberforce Reid, and Marva Wilkes. (Dean Rhoden and Marcia Esson, later continued the scouting). The West Indian Farm Workers Memorial Scholarship was launched with help from David H. Cooke and Governor General Howard E. H. Cooke of Jamaica. Portia Simpson visited WISC and local farmworkers.

The Club established ties with Air Jamaica. CEO Gordon "Butch" Stewart visited, launched his newspaper, and hosted domino tournaments. Promotional events and yacht celebrations followed, with Stewart presenting awards to Club leadership.

Renovations were completed on the bar, disco, lounge, and roof. Contributors included Keith Smith, Louise Livingston, Janet Mighty, Veronica Airey Wilson, Sylvia Perry, Cynthia Timoll, Neville Smith, Courtney Wilson, Kenneth Chambers, Daniel Jarrett, Junior Wellington, Junior Anderson, Parpeto, Decardova, Marcia Esson, Doreen Forest and Narcisco Airey. Hartford Mayor Mike Peters, Councilwoman Veronica Airey Wilson, and other officials celebrated the reopening. President Andrew Lawrence made additional renovations during his presidency.

A WISC delegation including Leslie Perry, Veronica Airey Wilson, Janet Mighty, and Milton Mitchell traveled to the White House to advocate for Caribbean trade and the designation of Caribbean Heritage Month. (Yvonne Davis facilitated and made the connections with the **Bush administration**). The first Caribbean Heritage celebration took place in June 2006 at City Hall with Mayor Eddie Perez, Deputy Mayor Veronica Airey Wilson, Senator Joseph Lieberman, and a packed audience of students and community members. Eulanda Balfour, Leslie Perry, Natasha Samuels, Vanje Buchanan, Yvonne Duncan, and Errol Hosein organized the event.

### Conclusion

The WISC with support from Americans have inspired the formation of Caribbean organizations across the country. Many of our founders came to the U.S. under the Manpower Act of the 1940s—not as farmers by trade, but as visionaries seeking opportunity. They built families, became entrepreneurs, and helped shape this country. Their values—dignity, respect, diligence—continue to guide us today. For 75 years, their legacy has uplifted a community and left an enduring mark on this nation.

**Leslie G. Perry, Past President**



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**Club Name: Greater Hartford West Indian Lion Club.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Qualifications:**

New Member  Transfer Member  Member number \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Club \_\_\_\_\_ Leo \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member \_\_\_\_\_ Student Member \_\_\_\_\_

Fee /Dues \$80/yr \_\_\_ International \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that membership into Lions Clubs international and that its standards are limited to persons of good character and reputation. I recognize the importance of rendering service to the residence in the community as with other civic-minded people. I understand that membership is not valid until approved by the club directors.

New Member Signed. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Club President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Date \_\_\_\_\_



*Where there is a need, there is a Lion.*

**The Greater Hartford  
 West Indian Lions Club**

extends its heartfelt

*Congratulations*



*the West Indian Social Club*

on the occasion of its



celebrating decades of dedicated service to the community. We look forward to more collaborations.

**The Greater Hartford  
 West Indian Lions Club**

Celebrating 24 years of service to this community.

*Congrats*

*to Lion Marcia*

*for receiving the*

*Community Service Award*

[www.http://e-Clubhouse.org/sites/ghwilcct](http://e-Clubhouse.org/sites/ghwilcct)  
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### CELEBRATION WEEK 2025



- KickOff Church Service at ST. JUSTIN July 27<sup>th</sup>**
- WIF Golf Tournament Aug. 1st**
- TASTE of the Caribbean Aug. 2nd**
- WISCOH Celebration Week Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>**
- WISCOH BUS TRIP to Baltimore, MD Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>**
- WIIC Hartford Parade & Concert Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>**

### LABOR DAY WKND DOMINO 2025



### Domino Tournament Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

The Annual WISCOH Domino Tournament will showcase the EASTERN FLYERS DOMINO SPORTS CLUB from Canada as they face off against local teams in a battle for the ultimate prize.

### FOUNDERS DAY 2025



### Founders Day October 18<sup>th</sup>

The West Indian Social Club of Hartford (WISCOH) commemorates Founders Day on the third Saturday of October, honoring its founding members. This special event brings together multiple generations for a family-friendly celebration, fostering connections and community engagement. It also serves as an open house, offering opportunities for new members to join and get involved.

### SNOWFLAKES & SHADOW 2025



### Snowflakes & Shadow Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

The annual Black and White Holiday Ball Elegant Affair, founded by the Ladies Auxiliary of WISCOH, is a timeless celebration of style and sophistication, where guests can step out, embrace elegance, and dance away the winter blues.

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**Congratulations to  
the West Indian  
Social Club for 75  
years of service.**





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**THANK YOU!**

# Impact Lives Foundation inc

Our Mission is to improve the quality of life for youth in extreme circumstances by fostering positive youth development in a safe, supportive environment. We promote health by encouraging an active lifestyle, support youth in becoming productive family members, and help them build strong relationships with God, education, sports, and their community.



Thanks to our Board of Directors and Members,  
We were able to provide assistance for four kids in Jamaica last year and one child this year so far.  
We are looking forward to doing much more in 2025!!  
Impact Lives Foundation President : Lincoln L Anderson  
VP: Kiplin Anderson  
Treasurer: Joy Chance

## *Congratulations!*

to West Indian Social Club of Hartford

Celebrating their 75th Anniversary  
of honoring our Cultural Heritage and  
Celebrating our Caribbean History



from the  
Officers and Members of  
The Caribbean American Society of Hartford, Inc.

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FREE

Community

# BIRTHDAY FRIDAY

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## EVERY MONTH WE CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS





Lowell "Slim"



Katheleen



Sylmerris "Pinky"



Zerepha "Gee-Gee"

*In Loving Memory*  
of The Sutherland Family



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# WEST INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB PRESIDENTS



John Richardson  
1950



David S. Mills  
1950-1953



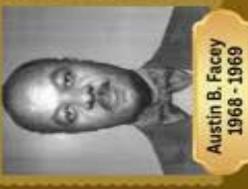
Reginald A. Leslie  
1954-58 & 1961



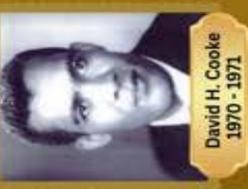
Joseph Lawrence  
1959 - 1960



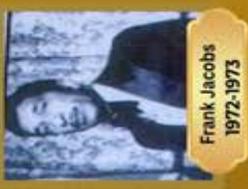
David S. Carter Sr.  
1962 - 1967 & 1979



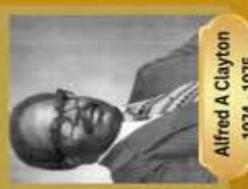
Austin B. Facey  
1968 - 1969



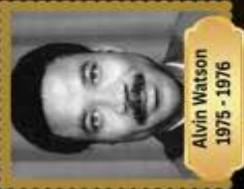
David H. Cooke  
1970 - 1971



Frank Jacobs  
1972-1973



Alfred A Clayton  
1974 - 1975



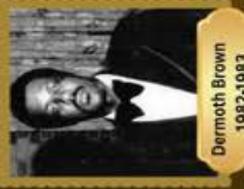
Alvin Watson  
1975 - 1976



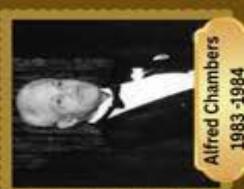
Leslie G. Perry  
1977-1978 & 1993-95



Hugh B. Freaney  
1980-81, 1989-2000,  
2005



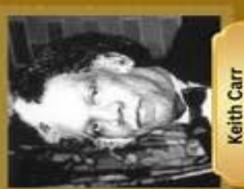
Dermoth Brown  
1982-1983



Alfred Chambers  
1983 -1984



Horace Johnson  
1984 - 1985



Keith Carr  
1986 - 1988



Veronica Airey Wilson  
1989-1990



Alfred Dyce  
1991 - 1992



Ray Davis  
1996-1997



Frank R. Martin  
1998



Doreth Flowers  
2001 - 2002



Errol Smith  
Immediate Past Chair



Andrew Lawrence  
2003-2004



Ludlow Francis  
2014



Doreen Forrest  
2006-2007



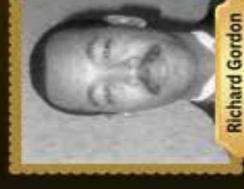
Lenworth Walker  
2008



Doreen Forrest  
2006, 2007, 2017



Terence Durrant  
2009



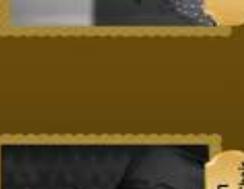
Richard Gordon  
2010- 2011, 2018



Marva Douglass  
2012 - 2013



Beverly Redd  
Current Chair



Beverly Redd  
Current Chair





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**BusinessPlus**



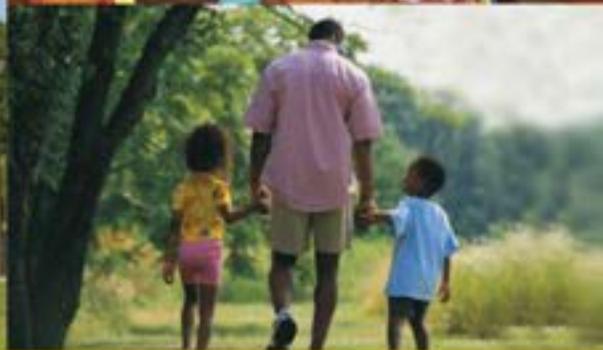
*Congratulations on your 75th  
Diamond Jubilee Anniversary*



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*"It is these little unexpected acts of kindness that are worth more than gold. The warmth and caring given so freely are very much appreciated by me and my family, and again proves no one goes through these times alone. Thank you for all your support and kind thoughts in giving us a living memorial gift. — Charlotte C."*

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