

L-R: Council Members Domenic Recchis, Darlene Mealy, Nelson King, and Council Member Kendall

City Hall hosts Caribbean American Heritage Month

By Donne Lamb
With the enormously funny comedian E. Wayne McDorald as emose, joined by Council Member Dr. Kendall Stewart who plied his own brand of same humor, Caribbean American Heritage Month was celebrated in style at the New York City Council last week.

The evening was full of hearty laugher as it wove

together the awarding of proclamations to six deserving Caribbean American individuals, along with artistic performances representing the diverse cultures of the Caribbean.

Interspersed with the entertainment were proclamations awarded six individuals: Nelson King, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Alton Aimable.

who halls from Saint Lucia; Lorna Scott McBarnette; iournalist Tony Dominican Republic native Eduardo Sanchez; and Vilma. Zuniga a Carifura descen-

King is a senior writer for Caribbean Life newspaper and a correspondent for the Rarhados-based Caribbean Media Corporation, Aimable creator the Tropicalfete.com, a website celebrating Caribbean culture and featuring entertainment news, music reviews, polls, photo galleries, and event listings.

Dr. McBarnette is the executive vice president of the International Division of Biomedical American : instruments, Inc. and board member of the Caribbean Health Association.

Rest is senior editor and editorial page editor of New York Carib News, North American editor of the Nation newspapers Barbados, and North American representative of the Star-Com Radio network in Barbados.

Sanchez, who volunteers with the Latino Commission on AIDS, serves as an advisor for Hostos' Genuine and Proud Club, and is a for spokesperson National School of Hearing Impaired in Santiago.

Vilma Zuniga, who is of Vincentian ancestry and a member of Community Board 8, has helped children with special needs for the last 20 years.

The theme of the evening. was unity among the nations of the Caribbean and with their brothers and sisters of the United States. As McDonald pointed out, "We were all dropped off in different places, but we all come from the same source."

Council Member Darlene Mealy - who, along with and Stewart Leroy Councilmember Commie, was a main sponsor of the event, extended her personal welcome, stating, No matter what percentage of Caribbean people I have in my district, all of us are one, and I deal with everyone the same way.

"No matter what we do, we each have to look out for one another because what ever affects you, it's also going to affect the person next door to you."

Majority Whip Inez Dickens, "all the way from that Caribbean city of Harlem" as Dr. Stewart put



Dancer with Oshubba Performing Company.

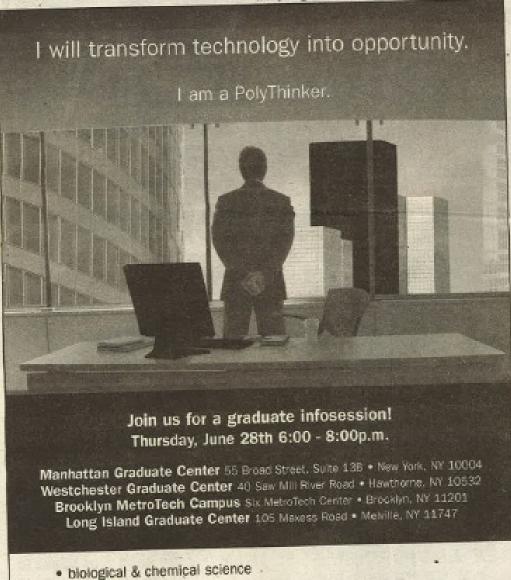
it, extended her felicitations and congratulations on the occasion, as did Council Members Helen Sears and Domenic Reachta who said they were proud to be there to show their respect for Caribbean-born

Cyril Thomas, deputy St. Vincent and the Grenadines Consul General to New York. and Dr. Harold Robinson. consul general of Trinidad and Tobago, also participated in the festivities.

Robinson thanked Dr. Stewart and all the members of the City Council for the recognition they give the Caribbean people that evening. "And we deserve it." he stated, 'because we have been partners with the United States virtually from the time before the U.S. became an independent country."

There was also top-notch entertainment. Wayne Brooks played ceremonial music from Trinidad and Tobago; Guyanese spoken word artist James Richmond read his poem "My Caribbean Anthem"; Fidel James played and sang Nagro Spirituals; Guyanese drummer Akoyaw Resides performed a solo and also accompanied singer Angel: Cooper in her stirring "Lament"; and both the Precious Angels of St Lucian Heritage and the Oshubba Performing Oshubba. Company offered up native folk dances. Singers Alvin Pierre and Hilton Samue delivered outstanding per formances as well.

The formal part of th evening concluded with Hilton Samuel leading th audience in a sing-along the Bob Marley hit "On Love." Everyone the adjourned to the rotund where they feasted on del cious Caribbean food.



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