

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO'S 47 YEARS OF INDENENDENCE CELEBRATED AT CITY HALL

By Donna Lamb



(l-r) Raymond Luke receives proclamation from Council Members Kendall Stewart and Mathieu Eugene * Sesame Flyers International honored by City Council. Left to right: Council Member Kendall Stewart, Consul General Harold Robertson, Raymond Luke, Sesame Flyers Executive Director Curtis Nelson, Assemblyman Nick Perry, joined by three young Sesame Flyers dancers *Kara Neptune * Alvin Pierre, Angela Cooper and Hilton Samuel lead audience in singing several beloved island songs
Photos By Donna Lamb

A festive air filled the Council Chamber at City Hall as nationals from Trinidad and Tobago and their friends gathered to celebrate the twin island nation's 47th anniversary of its independence. As Dr. Harold Robertson, the consul general of Trinidad and Tobago to New York, pointed out, 47 years is actually a relatively short period of time for a country to be in existence, and an anniversary is always an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved and what still needs to be accomplished. He spoke with pride about the great strides Trinidad and Tobago has made in meeting its goal of providing free education and medical care to all. Unemployment is also at a historical low. "Meanwhile, like other nations, in some areas we have a distance to travel," he continued, "but we are hopeful that we can achieve the status of a developed nation by 2020..

The celebration, which was sponsored by the New York City Council, led by Speaker Christine Quinn, was co-hosted by Council Members Kendall Stewart and Mathieu Eugene. In acknowledgment of the tremendous contributions immigrants from Trinidad and Tobago have made to New York City and the nation, they awarded City Council proclamations to several distinguished community leaders and organizations.


The awardees were: Horace Morancie, who plays a major role in ensuring that Carnival Trinidad and Tobago Style continues to flourish and grow in New York City, Raymond Luke, chairman of Sesame Flyers International, who also serves on the Board of Directors of Miami Carnival and is a Board Member of Governors of Trinidad and Tobago Folk Arts Institute, Hyacinth Williams, a founding member of Sesame Flyers International who, for the last twenty-

seven years, has served as a member of the West Indian American Carnival Association, Michael George, better known as "Sweet Noodles Scobic," a popular DJ who promotes harmony throughout the community, Dustan Bowen, President of his Block Association and an active member of three committees for Community Board 17, and Giselle Nakhid, a former teacher who now helps others by volunteering at Holy Apostle Soup Kitchen, the Flatbush Development Corporation and the Newkirk Avenue Neighborhood Association. Very appropriately, Sesame Flyers International and Caribbean American Sports & Cultural Youth Movement (CASYM) each received proclamations for the fabulous work they do with youth, providing them with vital academic, recreational, social and cultural activities that keep them in touch with their roots and help them reach their full potential. Among those on hand to help celebrate the

anniversary were Brentnold F.R. Evans, Consul General of Guyana; Omya David, Deputy Consul General of Antigua and Barbuda; Sterling Phillips, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Alliance; Assemblyman Nick Perry, and Lystra Collis, special assistant to Rep. Yvette Clarke, who brought warm greetings from the Congresswoman. Throughout the evening, the audience enjoyed several thrilling performances by the Sesame Flyers International dancers, the Mildred Forde Dancers and a solo by Kara Neptune. Vocalists Samuel Clarke, Alvin Pierre, Hilton Samuel and Angela Cooper brought down the house with their stirring performances, as did pan artist Joseph Lett with his rousing rendition of "Trini 2 De Bone." The award winning steel orchestra CASYM closed out the gala with its own brand of infectious artistry, which propelled the audience up out of their chairs to dance, sing, and mingle until it was time to call it an evening.

NATIONAL ALLOTMENT INSURANCE


Worried About Lack of Affordable Insurance?



SAM DUNSTON
PRESIDENT

Call 718.622.3888

DON'T LET YOU, YOUR FAMILY, NOR EMPLOYEE RISK NOT HAVING ANY KIND OF INSURANCE



PERNON DUNSTON
VICE PRESIDENT

NAIA Is A Leading Provider Of Personally Tailored Life, Annuity, Long-Term Care, Health And Other Insurance Speciality Plans Serving Small Medium And Large Businesses, Schools, Non-Profits Churches, Stores, Nursing Homes Unions, Hospitals And More

NAIA
NATIONAL ALLOTMENT INSURANCE
491 DEKALB AVENUE, BROOKLYN
718.622.3888

The P P Lounge
presents

FRIDAYS ON FULTON

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY FRIDAY!

~Sept 11~
Latin Jazz with The Jazz Cats

~Sept 18~
The Dynamic Vocals of Danielle Lewis

~Sept 25~
Spiritual Music Mix w/DJ Jo-E O-No

1478 Fulton Street
Btw. Kingston & Brooklyn Sts.
Brooklyn, New York
(‘C’ Train to Kingston~Throop)

-EVERY FRIDAY-
Open @ 6:30p / Show @ 8p
Complimentary Hors D'ouvres
\$20 Cover



Psalmist Productions Inc.
'Creatively Expressing God Thru The Arts'
Visit us now! @
www.ExperiencePPI.webs.com
212-946-5843