



YOUNG, GIFTED & BLACK™
ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARDS
FIFTEENTH

YGB Public Relations:
(E) ygbawards@gmail.com
(O) 347. 559.4YGB (4942)

Media Contact:
Shaila Mentore
smentore.ygbawards@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2020 YOUNG, GIFTED, & BLACK™ (YGB) ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARDS
HIGHLIGHT JAMAICAN BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS ACROSS MULTIPLE INDUSTRIES

New York, New York— **(Monday, March 9, 2020)** The Young, Gifted & Black™ (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards hosted their annual **Black-Tie Awards Dinner & Reception on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 in celebration of Black History Month/Reggae History Month.** Among the list of 18 honorees being recognized at the 15th anniversary celebration was a select list of Jamaicans covering the **Private, Public, Finance, Government & Entertainment** sectors. The following honorees were identified as the “**Unsung Heroes & Heroines**” within their communities by **Founder, Carl O. Gray**, who is a native of St. Thomas, Jamaica:

**YGB
PHOENIX**



Alston Wilson, O.D.
Consul General
Of
Jamaica In New York
ALUMNI HALL of FAME
International Relations
Award

**YGB
MILLENNIUM BUSINESS**



Dr. Yvonne Riley-Tepie
Vice President, Senior
Regional Giving Manager
Office of Charitable
And Community Giving
TD Charitable Foundation
Strategic Vision
Financial Services
Award

**YGB
CARIBBEAN**

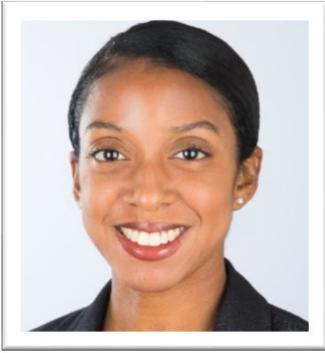


Tanya Stephens
Reggae Artiste
Lifetime
Achievement
Women In Reggae Music
Entertainment
Icon
Award



Ray Montgomery
President
Entertainment Solutions,
LLC
Businessman
of the
Year
Award

**YGB
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**



Melissa Sadler
Owner
Island Standard, LLC
**Strategic Vision
Business Development
Award**



Negesti Pinnock
Co-Founder/CEO
Head Mixologist
ButterMEssentials
**Small Business
Development
Award**



Vayden Pinnock
Co-Founder
ButterMEssentials
**Small Business
Development
Award**



Tanya Weddemire
District Design Manager
Ethan Allen
Interiors Inc.
New Jersey
**Strategic Business
Development
&
Management Award**

Alsion Wilson, O.D., Consul General of Jamaica in New York was honored in **2010 with the Women in Business Award as President-CEO of the Alsion Roach Group, LLC** and now 10 years later being inducted into the **YGB Hall of Fame in the field of International Relations**, stated in her acceptance speech...“we (Jamaican) boast the best stock market anywhere in the world two years and counting...Jamaica Stock Exchange.” Mrs. Wilson is a true testament to the “power of perseverance, hard work and determination by being appointed as our new Consul General”, stated by Mr. Gray.

The Young, Gifted & Black™ (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards honored other outstanding Jamaican women such as, Dr. Yvonne Riley-Tepie, considered a “no-nonsense...straight shooter” by her close friend and colleague, Ralph Bumbaca, President, TD Bank. Mr. Bumbaca, who presented Dr. Riley-Tepie with her award, acknowledged, “during her 14-year career she takes on new and challenging roles to help people in communities create social and economic equalities to prepare for future opportunities...” Dr. Riley-Tepie in her acceptance speech recognized that working with the Office of Charitable Giving at TD Bank is a testament to “a manner congruent to the way I was raised...to whom much is given...much is required was the motto in my household...Lord knows I’ve been blessed...to be recognized by those in my community.”

Mr. Canute Sadler, President-CEO, Stanmark Processors Company LTD in St. Thomas, Jamaica, was in attendance and presented his daughter, Melissa Sadler, with the Strategic Business Development Award. Ms. Sadler wears multiple hats as Vice President with Deutsche Bank, Owner of Island Standard Distributors and importer and distributor. Ms. Sadler took the stage with Grammy Award winning reggae artist Koffee’s ‘Toast’ as her theme song and felt the selection was the ideal introduction for which she states “...we are all truly blessed, and we have to be grateful... tonight is about celebrating forward thinking, accomplishments, inspiration, recognition, appreciation, achievements and empowerment!”

Kingston-born, Ray Montgomery, began his entrepreneurial career in the nightlife and entertainment business in New York City. The creation of Entertainment Solutions, LLC (ESI) was to provide analysis to owners and promoters in the entertainment business, executive protection for VVIPs, and managing and coordinating major events. ESI serves as Operations Management for some of the largest Soca festivals in the world and does business throughout the Caribbean and the East Coast of the United States. Mr. Montgomery acknowledges that nightlife entertainment is a multi-billion-dollar industry, therefore, his focus is to “bring a higher level of operations to nightlife and entertainment on all levels...with future plans is to incorporate local government...politicians in Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, St. Lucia, Miami, and New York City...with an intent to bring a higher level service in nightlife!”

Vayden & Negesti Pinnock, a husband & wife team, representing Clarendon and Manchester, has built a family owned business, ButterMEssentials, with the primary focus on organic natural products for your hair, skin and body. Mrs. Pinnock states, “ButterMEssentials was made out of desperation for the people who have traditionally been forgotten. For years, people of color have been told by major retailers that their natural selves are not enough and that they need to conform to accepted beauty standards throughout the industry.” ButterMEssentials is a registered black owned business based in Brooklyn, New York, with a location in Manchester. The company has a full product line with the purpose of empowering people of color to love their natural selves.

Tanya Weddemire is described by many of her close peers and colleagues as “... a passionate and accomplished Luxury Retail Executive with a unique brand background”, now working with Ethan Allen Interiors Inc. Born in Montego Bay, St. James, her father is from the parish and mother coming from St. Anns Bay, Ms. Weddemire attributes her success to the family values instilled by her parents and “brought upsee” as she aspired for success at an early age. Her career path started from high school at age 18 working in the fashion industry with Steve McFadden Couture in New York City, at age 21 being an Account Executive for Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Bergdorf Goodman to landing an opportunity after college with a leading luxury retailer, Natuzzi Italia, to relaunch their Northeast stores to now District Design Manager with Ethan Allen Interiors Inc. Tanya Weddemire is noted as being “...a dynamic and charismatic leader whose keen sense of emotional intelligence has enabled her to lead and develop businesses, coach her teams to success!”

The Young, Gifted & Black™ (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards began honoring reggae artistes with the ‘Reggae Music Entertainment Icon Award’ over the last three years, having honored Tony Rebel, Richie Stephens and Bounty Killer. Former honoree and avid supporter, Nikki Z, was instrumental in having the first female recipient, Tanya Stephens, be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Women in Reggae Music Entertainment Icon Award. Due to scheduling conflicts, Tanya Stephens, was not available to accept her honor in person and receive the additional certificates and special recognitions coming from New York City 2021 Mayoral Candidate and current Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, New York City Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams, U.S. Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke and State Senator Kevin Parker. Ms. Stephens provided a video acceptance stating “thanks to everyone who has supported her career over the years...thanks for standing by me for so many years...I really enjoy my job...you guys (my fans) make it that much more pleasurable...Big Up Unnu Self!”

Mr. Gray states “if we continue honoring our fellow Jamaicans in such volume...we may need to change YGB to YARDIE GIFTED & BRILLIANT!”

Please remember to use @ygbawards or hashtags #ygbawards #ygbawards2020 #ygbonthemove #ygbcelebrates15 #jamaicatotheworld #ygbjamaicanhonorees #jamaicaniceness #yardiegiftedandbrillant

The Young, Gifted & Black™ (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards is now accepting nominations for 2021 online:
www.ygbawards.com/nominate. To view the complete list of honorees visit: www.ygbawards.com

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The Young, Gifted & Black™ (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards program is a simple measure of giving recognition, highlighting and showing appreciation towards one’s peers. The awards program creates a platform that brings exposure to people, who represent positive role models to their peers, and provides an opportunity for others to be inspired and motivated.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, the **Young, Gifted & Black™ (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards** program was created with one goal and mission in mind:

To positively empower individuals and communities by highlighting the achievements of the “Unsung Heroes” whose stories can help inspire others towards making future goals attainable.

MISSION

P.O.W.E.R. -N- M.O.T.I.O.N.

Providing Opportunity With Effective Resources

Networking

Motivates Optimizes Transcends Inspires Organizes Nurtures

The **Young, Gifted & Black™ (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards** program places an emphasis on individuals that continue to reach levels of success through hard work and determination. There isn't a formal selection criterion to receive this award; rather the program is designed for peer-to-peer acknowledgement of their Talent, Ambition and Achievements toward the “Continued Pursuit of Success” outlined by where they have been in life to where they are now as ambassadors of the entrepreneurial spirit.

Best Regards,

Carl Gray
President-CEO
The NetLinkz Group, Inc.

- o: 347-875-7601 (Direct)

Founder
Young, Gifted & Black (Y.G.B.)
Entrepreneurial Awards

- e: ygbawards@gmail.com
- w: www.ygbawards.com

The NetLinkz Group, Inc. is management consulting organization making a conscious effort to bridge concepts, ideas, lifestyles, professions, likes and passions within a professional and entertainment forum.

Founded in 2006 by Carl O. Gray, President and CEO, The NetLinkz Group, Inc., and Founder of Unified Network of Business Professionals, in honor of Black History Month, The Young, Gifted & Black Entrepreneurial Awards is designed for peer-to-peer acknowledgement for their Talent, Ambition and Achievements toward the Continued Pursuit of Success.



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