

SHARE INFORM ENLIGHTEN INC. PRESENTS....

WRITE - RHYME - RECITE COLLECTIVE HONORS

Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Community Champions



By: Robert L. Gadsden Jr.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023
BISOU EVENT SPACE - LINDENHURST, NY

ABOUT SHARE INFORM ENLIGHTEN, INC AND FOUNDER VERDEL JONES

The mission of Share Inform Enlighten Inc. is to empower families with information and resources through educational programs to improve their quality of life. This mission is our driving force to see that everyone wins! Our focus is to provide information that will allow people, especially our youth, to grow and achieve their career and personal goals.

In June of 2018, we hosted our first Write, Rhyme and Recite Collective: Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Authors through DeliTeach Enterprises, LLC. Wanting to give authors a platform to share their stories, we created this program to also support literacy. In addition, we wanted to give graduating Long Island students scholarships via a Poetry Slam Scholarship. In 2019, we hosted our second annual event. In these two years, we awarded over \$5,700.00 in scholarships. In 2020 we were set to host another Write, Rhyme and Recite Collective: Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Authors through our newly formed not-for-profit, Share Inform Enlighten Inc...and then COVID-19 hit. We are excited that our Write, Rhyme, & Recite Collective Honors - Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Community Champions event is back. This year we are not only awarding high school students scholarships, but we are celebrating individuals that positively impact our youth.



Verdel A. Jones is a passionate experienced educator, author, business owner and longtime talk show host of the popular shows, "Conversations With Verdel Jones" and "Let's Kick It with The Joneses." She's made a significant impact on students as an educator for over 28 years, shared valuable information with her viewers and has awarded students in our community scholarships. This year marks her eighteenth year of dedicated service with the Plainedge School District as the Director of Guidance & Support Services. She is the proud daughter of Bobby and Shirley Gadsden who taught her the power of love, God and family.

Verdel received her bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. However, she soon discovered that her passion was educating children. As a result, she received her master's degree in secondary education from Hofstra University, as well as her master's degree in educational leadership from Long Island University.

Verdel's talk show, "Conversations with Verdel Jones," is featured on several media platforms. Being a teacher at heart, her show is focused on sharing conversations that inform and enlighten – in the hopes that individuals learn something they may not have known. Providing relevant information to her viewers is what inspires her. Verdel is also the co-host of a groundbreaking intergenerational talk show, "Let's Kick It With The Joneses," which also co-stars her husband, Jeremiah and their grown-ish children Marcus and Miya. The premise of this talk show is to highlight a positive Black family who not only love each other, but like each other and can talk about topics that resonate with other families.

She is also the author of the must-have book, "The Parent Agent: How to Represent Your Child and Get Them Into the College of Their Choice." Her extensive knowledge of the college exploration and selection process; current educational issues; and the social and emotional challenges students experience, make her an expert in her field.

As the founder of Deliteach Enterprises, LLC, she has been able to provide various services including speaking and hosting events dedicated to supporting her community. Her Write, Rhyme and Recite Collective program has awarded over \$5,700 in scholarships to students attending college. In 2019, Verdel founded the not-for-profit, Share Inform Enlighten Inc. whose mission is to empower families with information and resources through educational programs to improve their quality of life. This endeavor has allowed her to continue the work of providing scholarships for students.

www.ShareInformEnlighten.org

WRITE, RHYME, RECITE COLLECTIVE HONORS

Celebrating Young Poets & Highlighting Community Champions

PROGRAM

Host Welcome - Verdel Jones

Dinner - Meet and Greet

Introduction of Poetry Slam Judges

Poetry Slam Scholar Presentations

Community Champions Honors and Awards

Special Presentation

Poetry Slam Scholarship Award Presentations

Closing Remarks



August 19, 2023

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Darlene Williams & Verdel Jones

www.blackauthorsfestival.com

POETRY SLAM SCHOLAR MADELINE DOMBROW



Madeline Dombrow is currently a senior at Plainview Old Bethpage JFK High School and will be attending Ithaca College in the Fall, majoring in Writing for Film, Television, and Emerging Media. She is an active member in many clubs at school taking on roles such as president for media club and public relations for her school's writing and photo clubs. Additionally, she volunteers her time filming and photographing school events for the yearbook and the school's YouTube channel. Outside of school, she works as an Art Assistant.

Since a young age, Madeline has enjoyed writing poetry as well as novels. Today she enjoys creating her own scripts and bringing them to life through film.

POETRY SLAM SCHOLAR REBECCA LODESPOTO



Rebecca, or Becca, as her friends call her, lists poetry as one of her favorite hobbies along with hiking, kayaking and listening to new music. Writing poetry is something she learned from her mom. Rebecca's mother often wrote poems for both her and her sister. Rebecca is a senior at West Babylon Senior High and will attend SUNY Binghamton in the fall where she plans to study biochemistry.



Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Gadsden

Congratulates

The Students and Community Champions
On Their Great Accomplishments!

GOD BLESS
WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

Congratulations

to all of the
Community Champions
&

Poetry Slam Scholars

Mt. Nebo Grand Lodge - CFL

1074 Hall Place
Bronx, NY

Grand Master - Jose Rivera 33



POETRY SLAM SCHOLAR ARIANTHE MASTAKOURIS



Arianthe Mastakouris is a graduating senior from Long Island Lutheran High School. She began playing the violin at age five, and is a three-time NYSSMA level 6 participant, scoring in the high nineties. She learned the viola in one year and achieved NYSSMA level 4 the same year. Arianthe has played the first violin and viola in her school's orchestra and chamber. She was a member of Gemini Youth Orchestra, which performed at Alice Tully Hall. In addition to her love of music, she is an avid swimmer, skier and figure skater. She has competed in skating competitions on Long Island and

Massachusetts, medaling. Arianthe speaks fluent Greek and is diligently working on becoming fluent in Spanish. She is a New York State-certified Emergency Medical Technician and works as a swim coach. In the fall, Arianthe will attend the University of Connecticut Honors College majoring in animal science with a minor in Spanish.




CONGRATULATIONS TO SHARE INFORM ENLIGHTEN INC.

on your talent showcase and scholarship 2023!

Thank you for the work that you and your staff do in
challenging our youth to be the best they can be



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THE FAMILY OF
Earline Marshall

**Congratulates The 2023
Poetry Slam Scholarship Winners**



POETRY SLAM SCHOLAR MARION RAI



For as long as she can remember, Marion has had a love-hate relationship with poetry. With its depth and complexity, poetry has always seemed too difficult for her, until she actually dared to write a poem. Now, she's graduating as a senior from Hicksville High school, proud to have amended her relationship with poetry. Her most notable achievements include receiving an award during the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, as well as starting her own literary magazine, The Verity Review. She is currently working on a children's book titled "GirlsWriteNow." Her other extracurricular activities include mentoring other

young writers and playing for her school's basketball team. Marion is a Questbridge National Finalist and an AP Scholar with Distinction. Marion will attend Swarthmore College on a full scholarship where she hopes to double major in Finance and Law.

POETRY SLAM SCHOLAR KATELYN SUAREZ



Katelyn Suarez is a graduating senior from Hicksville High School with a GPA of 99.4. She is also an entrepreneur. Katelyn helped to found Crate of Emergency, a service that delivers snack boxes in high quality packaging to customers. She is a member of her school's National English Honor Society where she analyzes the literary works of various authors. She also serves as social media personnel for her school's Italian Honor Society. She is fluent in Spanish and is currently learning American Sign Language. Katelyn will be attending John Cabot University.



Congratulations

To All Of The
Poetry Slam Scholarship
Recipients & Community
Champions - 2023



St. Marks Lodge #19

Brentwood, NY

**Four Corners Deli &
First Realty Corporation**

Central Islip, NY

Congratulations
Community Champions
&

Poetry Slam Students
2023

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

S. P. BROWN, ESQ.

Founder & Chief Executive Officer



S.P. Brown has over thirty years of diverse legal, corporate management, youth development/empowerment experience and is currently focused on elevating awareness of the impact of childhood trauma issues while driving youth and adult empowerment and cultivating, embracing and writing our stories. S.P. is impacting youth populations and adults by helping to facilitate trauma-informed growth through her literature, and driving self-awareness, personal responsibility, owning our stories, confidence and resilience building.



As an author, speaker and education consultant, S.P. offers tools for educators through a professional development series and youth engagement through her literature, via a trauma-informed awareness and growth lens. This insight is substantiated by her literary body of work, legal discrimination expertise and personal trauma background.

S.P.'s platform is augmented by her commitment to supporting domestic violence issues, exemplified through her board service since 2019 for The Safe Center of Long Island (TSCLI), a not-for-profit domestic violence agency servicing victims of domestic and interpersonal violence on Long Island. She has served as Board President & Chair of the Board of Directors since 2022.

S.P.'s professional and business expertise includes eight years as a corporate strategic business partner/leader & Human Resources Generalist combined with twenty years as an Employment Discrimination Legal Practitioner. She has also served as Diversity Chair of a number of committees for various corporate entities.



www.spbrownwrites.com

 @s.p.brownwrites  @Spbrownwrites

Email: chinwinenterprise@gmail.com or spbirite@gmail.com

MEN'S MINISTRY - NJBC

**Good luck to all the student participants.
May God continue to bless you all!**

Men's Ministry NJBC - Deacon James Wright -President

New Jerusalem Baptist Church

"A church you can invest in"

**39 MacArthur Avenue
Brentwood, NY 11717**

Rev. Adrian Deshon Reid, Pastor



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student participants.**

May God continue to bless you all!

New Jerusalem Baptist Church

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Brentwood, NY 11717**

Rev. Adrian Deshon Reid, Pastor



COMMUNITY CHAMPION



JACOB DIXON

Founder & Chief Executive Officer



Jacob Dixon is an educator-activist who has vast interdisciplinary experience in education, health, community organizing, nonprofit leadership and community development. Jacob currently leads as founder & CEO of Choice for All, a nonprofit connecting services, resources and opportunities to

youth and families to reach their fullest potential across Long Island and beyond with a bold vision where one day, all children will be healthy and thrive – regardless of zip code. Prior to founding Choice in 2011, Jacob's career began as a public school special education teacher in Washington Heights, NY. He has also served as CEO of one of the largest student-run nonprofits focused on leadership development in residence hall communities.

Jacob continues his work in supporting youth and parent-led organizing, as well as leading regional and statewide cross-sector initiatives focused on education, health and economic equity. Jacob is an adjunct faculty at Bank Street College of Education and was selected, by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as one of thirty-nine nationally 2019 Culture of Health Leaders.



www.choiceforall.org

  @ChoiceForAll

COMMUNITY CHAMPION





DR. ZODELIA WILLIAMS

Founder & Executive Director

Dr. Zodelia Williams, DSW, LMSW, affectionately known as Dr. Zoe, is the Founder/Executive Director of 3 D's Aftercare Inc, 3 D's Empowerment Circle, LLC and 3 D's Community Empowerment Center. Having adopted the name Modern Day Harriet Tubman, Dr. Zoe believes that all children have the right to be free from circumstances or challenges that hinder their development. She is dedicated to encouraging children and giving them the tools to make their dreams come true. Her lived experiences with challenges and triumphs as a single parent of three are sources of motivation and inspiration. Dr. Zoe's commitment to understanding, uplifting, equipping, and empowering others is evident through her multiple social work and public service roles.

She is currently serving her 23rd year as a NYC Department of Education Pre-K social worker. Additionally, she is an ABA provider for children diagnosed with autism. Her civic engagement also includes serving as the scholarship committee chair for the Nassau Suffolk Association of Black Social Workers; community liaison to the Nominating Committee of the Nassau County Child Care Council; member of the District Attorney's African American Advisory Council; The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club; The Island Harvest Closing the Gap Food Council; The National Small Business Association; and a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Dr. Zoe celebrated the opening of 3 D's Empowerment Center in Baldwin, NY in 2018. The center is designed to empower children through programs that promote higher self-esteem, a greater sense of self-worth and an understanding of responsibility. The center provides STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) initiatives, afterschool services that are open until midnight, summer camp, ESL classes, workshops, and community programming. Dr. Zoe developed signature programs such as The Teen Parents that Rocks, Teen Café, Middle School Mingle, and Aged Like Fine Wine 55+ Club, to meet the needs of community members. Family-style meals, life skills training, social emotional learning, conflict resolution, mental health counseling, peer mentoring and cultural enrichment are essential program components. Most recently, Dr. Zoe partnered with her middle child Danielle to launch HelloGorgeous, NY, an interactive Selfie Museum, offering uniquely crafted selfie stations in an intimate setting, with a goal of bringing communities together to create memories that will last forever. Dr. Zoe has been recognized for her humanitarian service and innovation by several organizations. Most notably, she's been awarded the Operation Get Ahead Community Service Award, earlier this year, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc, Iota Theta Zeta Chapter, 2022 Zeta of the Year award and she received the Nassau Central Club Businesswoman/Community Service award. She was featured on all the Nice Busses in Nassau County as one of their Black History African American Heroes in 2021. She was featured in the February 2021 issue of Newsday as one of the African Americans leading the way. She received the 2021, New York State Assembly Woman of Distinction Award. She was featured in the March 2021 issue of Capella University magazine. She received the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc of Nassau-Suffolk, 2021 Outstanding Community Service Award. She was named the 2019 Person of the Year by the Baldwin Herald, a community-based publication and she received the Black Woman That Rocks award. Dr. Zoe is one of Amazon's Best-Selling Authors. She co-authored "Sistah Hooded," an anthology, with the goal of lifting the voices of Black women pursuing doctoral degrees.

www.3dsaftercareinc.org

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WRRRC HONORS 2023

CONGRATULATIONS

Community Champions &
Scholarship Winners

Mr. & Mrs. Darius A. Burton



Congrats!

**TO ALL OUR POETRY
SLAM SCHOLARS**

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!

Share Inform Enlighten Inc.

OUR POETRY SLAM JUDGES

DILLON BROWN




As a poet and founder of dbrownpoetry LLC, Dillon Brown's mission is simple, to change the world with spoken word. We all have the innate ability to live out our purpose by displaying our gifts and talents on a daily basis. The goal is not fame or popularity. The goal is to live a life demonstrating our God given talents and abilities!

The Vision - changing the world with spoken word by connecting individuals to the power of their words and voice!

The Mission - To bring a higher knowledge and awareness of self, to the lives of youth and adults, through the art of poetry and writing, so that they may develop qualities to lead a successful future.

DBrown currently hosts monthly shows at Bisou - Lindenhurst, NY (The Bop Open Mic) every last Thursday of the month, and Soulful Sundays at @IslandSoulli on the last Sunday of every month.

 @dbrownpoetry

JESSICA PAYES





Jessica Payes is a spoken word artist and author who has been featured in various open mics and poetry slam competitions around New York City. When not writing or performing, Jessica is a social worker helping families and children navigate life with mental health diagnoses.

In her debut collection, "Manipulated," Jessica highlights the importance of mental health and its effect in a raw and unfiltered way, being open with her journey of depression hoping readers know they, too, are stronger than their pain.

Jessica is currently working on multiple projects including visual arts, painting, a second poetry collection, and a debut novel.

 www.strongerthanmypain.com

  @strongerthanmypain

OUR POETRY SLAM JUDGES

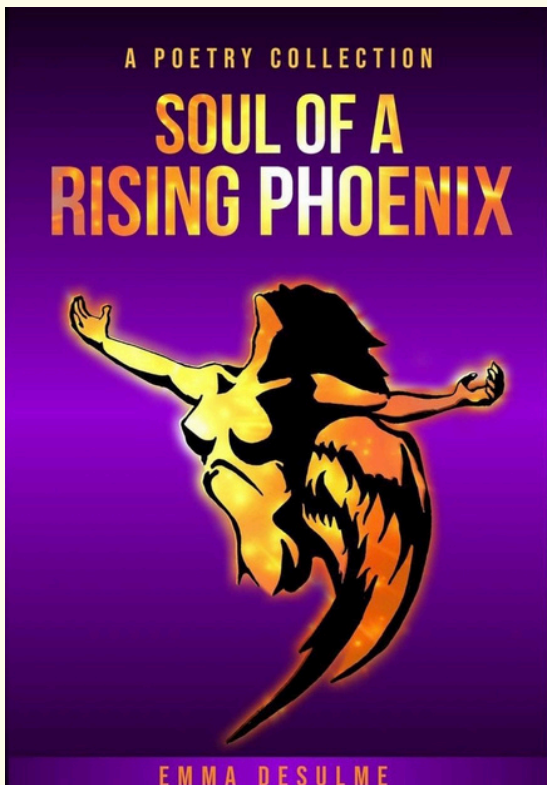
EMMA DESULME



Emma Desulme is a Haitian American woman who has always had the knack of creativity from music and crafting to writing. She is the author of "Soul of a Rising Phoenix," a poetry collection that displays an interesting range of emotions, struggles, victories, and experiences that a lot of people go through silently in life.

Emma also discovered a creative new genre in which she incorporated both of her Creole and English languages to bring to you Crenglish Poetry.

When Emma isn't busy writing, you'll find her playing one out of the nine musical instruments, with her community band. Most of her instruments were self-taught. She makes and wears many hats. You can also find her crocheting while watching anime for her business, Savvy Creations by Emma. If she's not tied up with those other activities, you'll find her teaching people how to save lives using CPR/First Aid as a certified instructor for the American Heart Association. Not to mention, she's a bit of a travel junkie.



www.soulofarisingphoenix.com



@EmmaDesulme

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

S. P. BROWN, ESQ.

FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

www.spbrownwrites.com



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JACOB DIXON

FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


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DR. ZODELIA WILLIAMS

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


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POETRY SLAM JUDGES

EMMA DESULME


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DILLON BROWN

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JESSICA PAYES

 www.strongerthanmypain.com

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PAST POETRY SLAM RECIPIENTS

Mandy Wagnac - 2018
Westbury High School

Eugenia Rodriguez - 2018
Central Islip High School



Julio Shimund Taku - 2018
Walt Whitman High School

Nicole Codianni - 2019
Long Beach High School

Alahna Perez - 2019
Westbury High School

S H A R E I N F O R M E N L I G H T E N T H A N K S

**The Hagadorn Foundation
The Gadsden Family
The Family of Earline Marshall**

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VENUE:

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PHOTOGRAPHER:

Byron M. Shirley
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COVER PAINTED BY:

Robert L. Gadsden Jr.

PROGRAM PRINTED BY:

Good Mojo Printing
169 Islip Avenue | Islip, NY 11751



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR 3RD ANNUAL #WRRC23

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SHARE INFORM ENLIGHTEN TEAM - WITHOUT YOU NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE!