



20TH ANNIVERSARY

Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival

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2025



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*The Taste of the Caribbean
Arts & Culture CT, Inc*



Leslie G. Perry
Executive Director

*The Taste of the Caribbean
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www.TasteCT.org*

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 20th annual Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival! This milestone celebration wouldn't be possible without the support of our community, and we're grateful for your loyalty over the years.

Our Festival honors the rich heritage of the Caribbean Diaspora, showcasing music, food, dance, art, and culture from English, French, and Spanish-speaking islands. We're thankful to our vibrant board members, directors, and their families for their tireless efforts and dedication.

Special thanks to our partners at the Riverfront Recapture, sponsors, entertainers, volunteers, and our Founding members who paved the way for this event. To the thousands of attendees who have joined us over the years and those coming for the first time this year, we invite you to enjoy the food, atmosphere, music, and company of loved ones.

As you experience the beauty of the Caribbean in downtown Hartford, remember the spirit of community and celebration that brings us together. Enjoy the day and take it all in!

On this our 20th anniversary of the Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival, I extend a very special welcome. Thanks to the Board of Directors, Committee Members, Vendors, Entertainers, our many volunteers and to YOU, the attendees for your overwhelming support and commitment. We also recognize the efforts of our host, Riverfront Recapture, Inc., The Town of East Hartford, and The City of Hartford, who have provided unwavering support throughout the past twenty years.

The Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival is made possible with the assistance of our sponsors and grantors: Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Trust Fund Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, The Greater Hartford Arts Council, Ensworth Charitable Foundation, The George A & Grace L Long Foundation, The City of Hartford, Hartford Communities that Care, InterCommunity Health, JAH Financial Services, Smile Studio Dentistry, EverSource, Crumbie Law Group, LLC, and Connecticut Science Center.

As this event continues to grow, so has the need for funding. We look to you and other entities within the community and beyond, to continue providing desperately needed financial support for this free family-friendly event. Please become a member or Friends of Taste of the Caribbean. The funding we seek assists us to produce and showcase quality diverse cultural entertainment. The event provides local vendors and businesses the opportunity to promote their products and expertise to a diverse audience interested in Caribbean arts, culture and cuisine. This annual festival promotes economic development and provides a significant summer tourist attraction to the City of Hartford.

Thank you for your support of this 20th anniversary of the Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival. Come out early and be sure to enjoy the diverse cultural offerings proudly presented by Taste of the Caribbean Arts and Culture CT Inc.

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Denise “Saucy Wow” Belfon



The name Denise Belfon is synonymous with sultry, exotic stage performance. An acclaimed Soca and Calypso artiste and performer, Belfon's stage sobriquet, “Saucy Wow”, has laid claim to a brand that she has undisputedly held for almost 30 years. Belfon grew up as the eldest of seventeen children. She recalls being intrigued by music from the tender age of seven, noting the influence of her aunt introducing her family to reggae artistes like Bob Marley and the Wailers and Peter Tosh, among other artistes of that time. Her home in Point Cumana, Carenage, Trinidad, was always filled with music, Denise likening the atmosphere to a ‘party-like’ one, ‘round the clock’.

Part of a large, extended family, which included her two grandmothers, Belfon frequently heard the music of artistes like Etta James, Sam Cooke, Ella Fitzgerald, Mahalia Jackson and Tina Turner. Denise says it was one of those matriarch's love for these entertainers at that time that ignited her appreciation for them as well. Her voice, a husky yet attractive one, was apparent from the age of two, and with that awareness, Belfon grew even more intrigued by artistes with such vocal similarity. From the age of two, Denise's fate for a life on stage, seemed sealed. Both her grandparents had given her the name “Saucy”, all because of her quick-witted mouth and sassy appeal. It would go on to become a name spoken by millions around the world.

Her vocal ability exploded as she grew up and by the age of nine, Denise Belfon began making inroads onto the Calypso and Soca circuits in a major way. She began entering the Junior Calypso Monarch competition alongside the likes of fellow entertainers, Kerwin DuBois, Ghetto Flex and Machel Montano among others. Musical stalwart, Roy Cape is single-handedly responsible for the ‘becoming’ of Denise “Saucy Wow” Belfon, in the world of Soca. He hand-picked her after careful observation of her performance ability and vocal execution on stage, and soon after, she would become the lead female vocalist of Sound Revolution, alongside Colin Lucas. She was 19 years old.

DREAMA, formally known as “J,” a reggae, dancehall, urban, contemporary singer originally from the Waltham area of Kingston as well as Kingston 20, Jamaica, born Winston Churchill Burgher Jr. Singer and songwriter Dreama is no stranger to Stardom. His unwavering talent led him to a successful music career of over 22 years.

His musical journey led him across the paths of many well-respected artists and producers in the reggae fraternity, such as Chico, Delly Ranks, Tifa, Voicemail and Cham; his main advisors being reggae artistes Jahmali, Courtney “Yogi” John, and Lukie D of the group LUST.

In early 2023, Dreama released a new number 1 track “Special to Me,” blazing the airwaves globally. Produced by Troyton Music, creating a dynamic due as they work to release the well-anticipated EP titled “SONGVERSATION”.

The ensuing years were filled with immense growth and life lessons for the woman who evolved over time into a wife, mother, and full-time entertainer. In 1995, Denise Belfon made all of the Caribbean look, as she broke the glass ceiling with a song called, “Ka Ka Lay Lay”. It would catapult her to almost immediate stardom and from that time onward, songs like “Hard Wuk”, “De Jammette”, “Saucy Baby,” and “Indian Man” would cement her status as an impenetrable female force in the Soca music industry. In 1998, her collaboration with fellow entertainer, Ghetto Flex proved an essential cross-over anthem, something that effectively challenged the norms of the time. That single was called, “Rock Your Body”.

Another 1998 released single called, “Work,” often referred to as “Put Yuh Back in It,” would prove capable of the unimaginable though. “Work” has been remixed over 8000 times in numerous languages and across several cultures. Interest increased further after a collaboration between dancehall artiste, Shenseea and US rapper, Megan Thee Stallion in 2022, would hear Belfon's voice and “Work” lyrics sampled in the single, “Lick.” Denise Belfon is deeply rooted in the culture from which she rose to superstardom, in the Caribbean. She maintains a strong allegiance to her country and is excited for the future of Soca music. As Belfon matures, she says she is dedicated to assisting new and upcoming entertainers from all walks of life, in shaping their careers. The name Denise “Saucy Wow” Belfon has stood the test of time and will continue to penetrate in the business of music for many years to come.

DREAMA





Glenroy Samuels

The Dancing Guitarist

Glenroy Samuels is a dynamic musician known for his roles as a guitarist, songwriter, arranger, producer, and performer. His soulful guitar playing and powerful vocals have captivated audiences for years. Best known for his 16-year tenure with the iconic band Fabulous Five (Fab 5), he earned the nickname "The Dancing Guitarist" for his unique ability to combine impressive dance moves with intricate guitar melodies. His energetic performances create an electrifying atmosphere, thrilling fans worldwide and showcasing his charismatic stage presence.

Glenroy's passion for music began early in his life while growing up across the street from the legendary Coxson Studio One. He spent countless hours immersed in the sounds of The Skatalites, Freddie McGregor, Johnny Osbourne, and other reggae pioneers. This foundational exposure to Jamaica's vibrant musical landscape shaped his love for rhythm, melody, and live performance, forging a deep connection to the rich traditions of Jamaican music. Initially, Glenroy's artistic journey began on stage, where he revealed his talents as an actor and dancer with Jamaica's National Pantomime. His transition to music came when he joined the Pantomime band, where his rhythmic talent caught the attention of legendary musician Grub Cooper. Recognizing Glenroy's immense potential, Cooper extended an invitation for him to join Fab 5, marking a significant milestone in Glenroy's musical career.

During his time with Fab 5, Glenroy blossomed as a talented songwriter, arranger, and producer. He penned memorable hits like "Shape," the title track of one of Fab 5's acclaimed albums, and "Sweet Words," which topped the UK charts.

He also contributed to landmark recordings by Toots & The Maytals, Grace Thrillers, and Gem Myers, as well as all Fab 5's live albums. Glenroy released two solo albums - "You Should Be Me" and "Imagine" - that demonstrate his emotional depth and expert arrangements. Internationally, he has performed with legends like Percy Sledge, Ray, Goodman & Brown, The Chi-Lites, Ben E. King, and Freddie Jackson. He has had the privilege of performing for dignitaries such as Nelson Mandela and the Prince of Monaco, displaying Jamaica's rich musical heritage on the global stage.

After relocating to the United States, Glenroy Samuels fully embraced his passion for music, quickly gaining recognition and performing alongside reggae legends like Sanchez, Chaka Demus & Pliers, and Luciano. Recently, he has been captivating international audiences while touring with Glen Washington in places like Kenya and French Guiana. From the neighborhood sound of Studio One to international stages, Glenroy Samuels has not only performed but also served as a cultural ambassador for Jamaican music. His journey embodies the rhythm, resilience, and richness of the island's musical heritage, making him a brilliant performer and a thoughtful, passionate storyteller.

Lance "MAC 11"

Montoute

Lance Montoute was born in the vibrant Caribbean town of Castries, St. Lucia. Montoute known by the stage name "Mac 11", is a rising force on the Soca and Dancehall scene. As he was growing up, Mac 11 found inspiration in the legendary Vybz Kartel, Eminem, and the performances of Buju Banton, Machel Montano, Sparrow, and Burning Flames. These early influences shaped his musical journey and ignited the flame for his own unique style.

Motivated by his love of music and encouraged by those who recognized his musical talent, Mac 11 found a purpose in expressing himself through music, whether it was on the block, in church, or at school, he realized that his voice had the power to resonate with others. The St. Lucian native officially started his musical journey in high school but took a serious leap into the industry in 2009.

Mac 11 has graced major Festival stages like Labor Day in NY, Orlando Carnival, St. Lucia, Hartford CT, Trinidad, and Notting Hill Carnival, in London this year. He has already left his mark on small and large venues, captivating audiences with his authentic and energetic performances. With tracks such as his 2016 Road March hit "Padnas", "Bend Up Your Back", "Tick Tock on Tick Tock", "Who Jah Bless", "Not Interested", and "Jouvert Anthem", he brings a raw blend of witty lyrics and a dominating presence to his fans. His music captures the essence of a strong spirit, the dance scene, and the power of belief.



Nelson Bello



Nelson Bello is a Connecticut-based percussionist, recording artist, educator, and Hartford native. He began his musical studies at age 13 at the Hartford Conservatory Jazz Summer Program and continued at the Performing Arts Academy. At 15, Nelson traveled to Cuba for the International Jazz Festival (with Latin Flavor, now better known as INSIGHT).

Oneash



Originally from Jamaica, Grace C. Wright now proudly calls Connecticut home. Grace began her academic journey at Saint Andrew High School in Kingston before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Hartford. She went on to earn a Master's in Math Education from the University of Massachusetts, where she also taught pre-calculus and shared her cultural heritage through Jamaican folk dance.

Grace holds teaching licenses in both Connecticut and Massachusetts and has spent over 20 years inspiring students as a dedicated secondary school math teacher. Beyond the classroom, Grace is the founder of Grace C. Wright Performing Arts, where she teaches, choreographs, and performs at cultural events across New England. Celebrated for her vibrant and imaginative costume designs, she was featured in CPTV's "Where Art Thou" series in 2022 as a Caribbean choreographer and designer. Her fashion line, Grace by Grace, debuted at Middlesex Fashion Week in 2023 and returned in 2024 with bold, culturally inspired collections.

Affectionately known as "Dancer" or "The Dancing Math Teacher," Grace seamlessly blends her love of mathematics, movement, and Caribbean culture. She draws creative inspiration from her travels throughout the Caribbean, Canada, and Argentina, and finds her greatest source of motivation in her son, David.

Grace C. Wright Performing Arts



Donald Minott



Donald Minott was born in Kingston, Jamaica and grew up in Central Village, St. Catherine. He was inspired by Musicians such as Delroy Wilson, Ken Boothe, Bob Andy, The Heptones, Freddie McGregor, Burning Spear, Dennis Brown, Horace Andy and Bob Marley and the Wailers. Donald began writing poetry during his High School years and attended a Summer Workshop for Creative Writing at the Creative Arts Center in Kingston.

In 1986, he migrated to Hartford, Connecticut. His breakthrough came because of his appearance at basement parties. Later, he started singing with Bands from the Hartford area, such as Rough Neck Massive, Positive Vibrations and then became one of the Founding members of the Lightning Reggae Band. After touring parts of the U.S.A, he formed The High Voltage Reggae Band, which is still in existence.

Donald Minott has worked alongside some great Reggae Artists such as Burning Spear, Toots Hibbert, Culture, Alton Ellis, Yellowman, Beres Hammond, Luciano, Sizzla, Damian Marley, Buju Banton, Morgan Heritage, Maxi Priest, Anthony B, Etana, Marcia Griffiths, and Wayne Wonder, to name a few. Donald has performed at several festivals such as: The Gamboa Music Festival on Cape Verde Island in 2004, and Reggae by the River in Hamburg Germany. He has performed in Serbia, Macedonia and the Balkans for many years. Donald Minott sings and performs in a strong Roots and Culture Reggae Style!

Yasmine

Yasmine is an entrepreneur and creative spirit and a singer at heart. When she's not performing, she's building her BeautyTech company and leading socialmedia content creation of Rehoboth Church of God, demonstrating her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to her community.



Dahomey, an epitome of brotherly love, inclusion, fairness and a spirited force that exhumes passion for quality, respect and enjoyment, hails from the island of Jamaica and is recognized as an International Reggae sensation. This international reggae artist and a lover of people, through her music and diversity, sends positivity with a hope that it will infuse the heart, mind, body and soul beyond boundaries. When she performs she ignites the "passion of the Empress – fierce" with permeated words set to inspire and empower. She brings the stage to life with riveting performances with not only music but also within her is an innate gift as a dancer extraordinaire which was perfected at the university level. Dahomey started as a lead singer in Fresh Reggae Band. While experiencing some disappointing loss she reinvented herself by starting her own production label, "Empress D. Productions LLC". She then promoted her own reggae show and titled it "Roots Rock Reggae Explosion." Her career has been taking off since the released of her album "Empowered" under her own label.

THE PROFILE BAND



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AKA MISTRESS DAHOMEY**

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Eversource is proud to support The Taste of the Caribbean Arts & Culture CT, Inc., and their annual Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival.

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A Taste of the Caribbean - Recipes



Black Mushroom Rice
(Diri ak Djon Djon) - Haiti

Ingredients

- 2 Cups of Dried Black Mushrooms (djon djon)
- 3 garlic cloves minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion chopped
- 2 cups long-grain rice
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 tsp Ground cloves
- 1 (12-ounce) can lima beans (or green peas)
- 1 to 2 thyme sprigs
- 1 green Scotch bonnet pepper

Method

- In small pot, soak mushrooms in 4 cups water for 10 minutes.
- Boil mushrooms on low heat for 10 minutes.
- Strain the mushroom water into another container for later use. The mushrooms in the strainer will no longer be needed.
- In a large pot, sauté the garlic and onions on medium heat for 2 minutes.
- Add the rice and stir for 3-5 min.
- Next, add the mushroom water, salt, cloves and lima beans.
- Bring the water to a boil and reduce the heat when most of the water evaporates (approximately 10-15 min).
- Stir the rice, set the temperature to low.
- Add Scotch bonnet pepper and thyme.
- Cover the pot and steam the rice for 15 min.

Melongene (Curried Eggplant)

This dish, sometimes called baighan, is known for its garlicky, curried flavor and is surprisingly easy to make.

Ingredients

Eggplant (melongene), olive oil, curry powder (Chief or Madras recommended), garlic, salt, and hot sauce

Preparation

Peel and cube the eggplant.

Heat oil in a pan, add curry powder, then the eggplant, coating it with the spice.

Add water and cook, covered, until the eggplant is tender.

Mash the eggplant with a fork, then add minced garlic, salt, and hot sauce to taste.

Serving: Enjoy this dish for breakfast or as a topping over steamed rice.



Ron Gibb's
PONE

Combine and mix one 2lb pack of Goya grated Cassava (yuca), 1/2 of a grated coconut, 1/2 stick melted butter, approximately 1 can coconut milk and 1 cup mashed boiled pumpkin.



Frozen Banana "Nice Cream"

The best kept secret that every plant-based eater knows about, frozen banana soft serve will change the way you think about dessert. Simply peel a few bananas, throw them in the freezer, and blend them up with some frozen fruit the next day. Maybe add a splash of lemon juice, nut butter, or a sprinkle of maple syrup if so inclined.

Easy Coconut Milk Whipped Cream

Simple, easy, and decadent, refrigerating (not freezing) a can of full-fat coconut milk or cream overnight results in a thick and creamy whipped topping for desserts, waffles, or coffee. Whip coconut cream (not liquid) with a hand-mixer or stand mixer until light, fluffy peaks form. Add some vanilla extract and powdered sugar for some extra flavor and sweetness



Ron Gibb's
PHOLOURIE

Ingredients

- 4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon yeast
- 1 teaspoon Himalayan salt (or to your taste)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 to 3 cups water
- Green Seasoning
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- Half cup dhal flour,
- 1/2 tsp brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp cumin

Instructions

Mix all dry ingredients, then add water to make a batter
Cover w/foil and allow to rise.
Scoop batter with small spoon and fry in hot oil until batter is cooked.

Add brown sugar and black pepper at your discretion and 1/2 teaspoon each of clove, nutmeg and cinnamon. I also add anise extract and vanilla essence

Mix it all up, place in a greased baking dish (on the top rack) and bake at 350° for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Keep an eye on it to make sure it doesn't over bake

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Guyana Shocks the World - The Only Country That Doesn't Need to Import Food

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liGrCJviEQo>

What if I told you there's only one country in the world that produces all the food that it needs not the US, not China, but Guyana a small South American nation most people overlook. In a world full of food insecurity and rising import bills, Guyana has quietly pulled off what no one else has. A new global study published in Nature Food and reported by BBC Science Focus analyzed 186 countries across seven essential food groups. Only Guyana met the threshold for all of them. This includes meat, dairy, fish, vegetables, fruits, starch staples and plant based proteins. While major economies scramble to secure supply chain, this Caricom nation is thriving in the one sector the world is now realizing is most critical - food security.



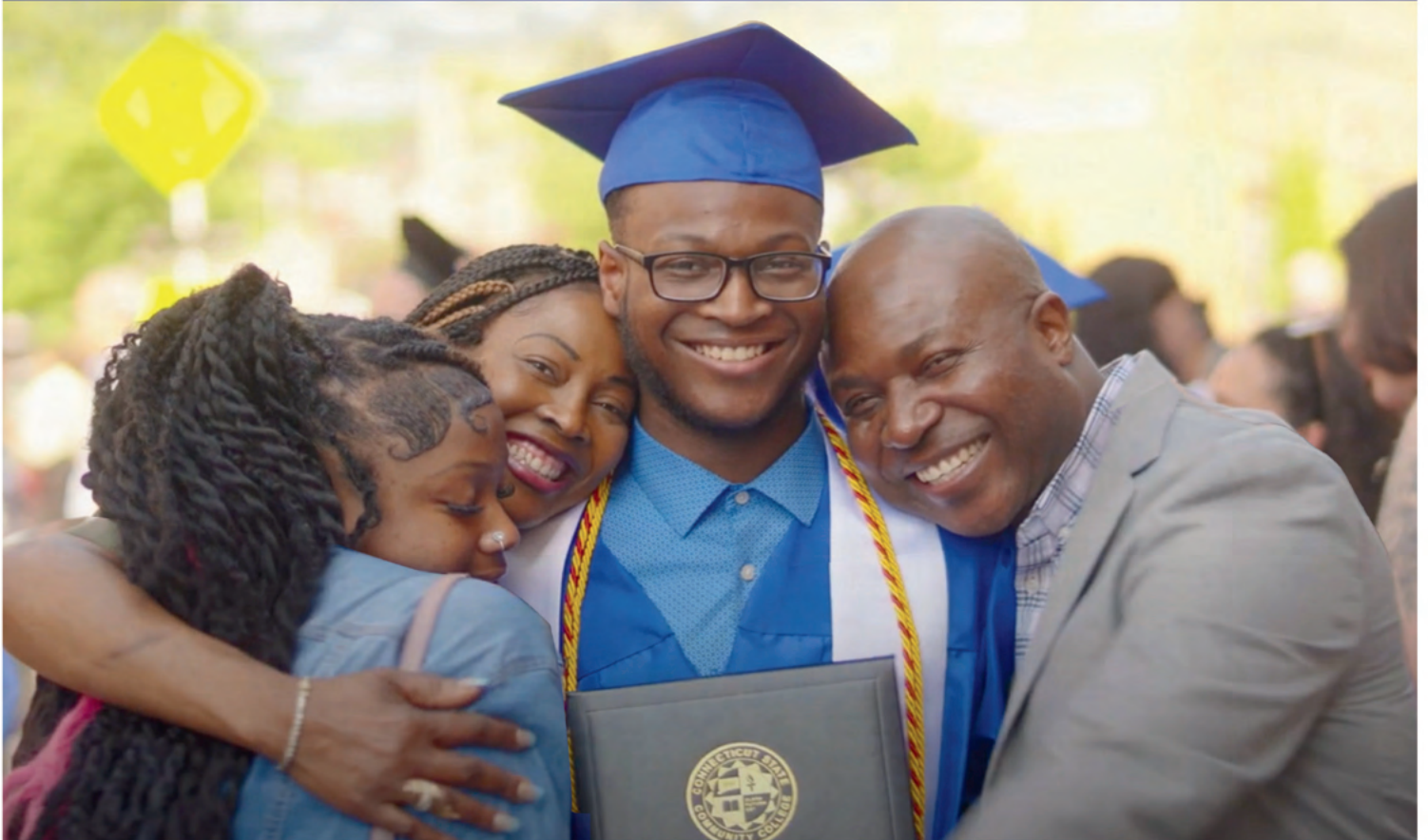
The Nature Food Study measured how much of each country's food supply is produced domestically. The researchers wanted to know 'could a country feed itself without any imports in a world plagued by global shipping shocks, climate change and geopolitical tensions'? That's a serious question. The results were shocking. Superpowers like China and Vietnam came close covering six of the seven food categories, but only Guyana managed all seven. Even agricultural giants like Brazil and the US fell short in one or more food groups. This makes Guyana a global outlier not just in the Caribbean or South America but in the entire world. It's a monumental achievement for a country with fewer than a million people. This didn't happen by accident. Since 2020, Guyana's government has increased its agricultural budget by 468%. Massive public and private investments have expanded rice, sugar, livestock and aquaculture industries. Guyana also plays a leading role in CARICOM's vision 25 by 2025 an ambitious plan to reduce the regions food import by 25% by 2025.

As other Caribbean nations struggle with food dependence, Guyana is positioning itself as their regional supplier and the land helps too. Guyana has vast fertile river valleys and access to fresh water. Combine that with political and regional demand and oil revenue to fund diversification, and you get a country that feeds itself and might soon feed the Caribbean. This news couldn't come at a more urgent time. Many nations are facing food crises, especially with rising fertilizer costs, extreme weather and the aftershocks of the Covid 19 pandemic and wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Countries like Qatar, UAE and Yemen were ranked at the bottom producing virtually none of their own food. Even wealthy nations that import everything can become vulnerable in a crisis.

Guyana's model shows what's possible when agriculture is prioritized. It's not just about food, it's about sovereignty, resilience and economic security. As climate threats grow, more countries may turn to Guyana's blueprint. Guyana is sending a powerful message to the world, you don't need to be rich or large to be self-reliant. You need leadership, vision and investment in your people and your land. While most nationals are still dependent on global supply chains, Guyana stands alone small in size but unmatched in food independence and that's something the world can no longer afford to ignore.

The next time you hear about food shortages or import shocks remember Guyana. Because in a world of rising insecurity, it may be the only truly safe place at least when it comes to food. So, what does Guyana's food independence really mean for the rest of us? It's more than just a statistic, it's a wakeup call. While the world races to secure artificial intelligence and digital dominance, Guyana quietly mastered the most basic, most essential element of survival. Food in an age where climate disasters, war and global instability are disrupting supply chains, this small South American nation stands tall. If a country with under a million people and history of underdevelopment can pull this off, what excuse do the rest of us have?

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Grenada – *A Trace of Sun* – by Pam Williams is a heart-wrenching family drama inspired by the author's own experiences with the Windrush generation. It follows Raef, a young boy left behind in Grenada when his mother, Cilla, migrates to England in search of a better life.



Guyana – *A Girl within A Girl Within a Girl* - by Nanda Reddy – A raw and intimate story of trauma, survival, and healing. This is a gripping coming-of-age novel that explores identity, survival, and reinvention through the life of Maya—formerly known as Sunny.



Haiti – *Breath, Eyes, Memory* - by Edwidge Danticat is a deeply emotional coming-of-age novel that follows Sophie Caco, a Haitian girl sent to live with her estranged mother in New York after growing up with her aunt in Haiti.



Jamaica – *How to Say Babylon: A Memoir* - by Safiya Sinclair - Throughout her childhood, Safiya Sinclair's father, a volatile reggae musician and a militant adherent to a strict sect of Rastafari, was obsessed with the ever-present threat of the corrupting evils of the western world.



Jamaica – *Every Little Thing* - by Cedella Marley is a joyful children's picture book inspired by her father Bob Marley's iconic song Three Little Birds. It follows a young boy through everyday ups and downs—spilled cereal, rainy days, and moments of worry—reminding him that with love, kindness, and the support of family and friends, “every little thing is gonna be all right”.



Puerto Rico – *Takes one to Know One* - by Lissette Decos – this oppositive attracts enemies to lovers novel brings all the right moves and some sizzling chemistry. The story follows Daniela Maria, a tightly wound, blazer-loving publicist who lands a high-stakes assignment: clean up the image of scandal-prone reggaeton superstar René “El Rico” Rodriguez. The catch? Dani secretly hates reggaeton and knows nothing about it—but she fakes it to keep her job.



St Lucia – *Rum Justice* – a crime-mystery novel presumably set in the district of Vieux Fort, St. Lucia.



St Vincent – *Shape of a Warrior* by Peggy Carr - is a pre-Columbian historical novel set in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It follows the intertwined journeys of Yurubi, a spirited Kalina girl, and Aloo, a mysterious shipwreck survivor, as they grow up in the Indigenous village of Warigara (modern-day Sandy Bay).



Trinidad and Tobago - *The Bread the Devil Knead* by Lisa Allen-Agostini is a raw and powerful novel set in Port of Spain, Trinidad, that follows the life of Alethea “Allie” Lopez, a 39-year-old boutique manager who hides the bruises from her abusive partner behind a façade of independence and style. *The Roots of a Tree: The Genesis of a Conscious Conversation* by Alphonso McGriff III is a guide focused on fostering healthier, more respectful communication.



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Flavor, Faith & Legacy

The Journey of Pauline and George Scott from Jamaica to Hartford

Celebrating two visionaries whose passion for people, pastries, and progress helped shape the soul of Hartford's West Indian community.

By Carol Pottinger-Carnegie



A Bakery with a Beating Heart

On any given morning in Hartford, the scent of flaky patties and sweet buns drifts down Albany Avenue, a familiar comfort to the locals. Inside Scotts' Jamaican Bakery, customers line up, some chatting in patios, others placing large family orders. Above the counter, a framed photograph of Pauline and George Scott captures their joyful gaze. This is more than a bakery, it is a living legacy.

From Clarendon to Connecticut Jamaica → Toronto → Hartford (1970s)

The Scotts' story began in Clarendon, Jamaica. Pauline was an accomplished netball athlete who played on Jamaica's first national team and competed in the 1963 World Netball Tournament in England, and George was the principal of Knox College. Both were deeply rooted in service and excellence and worked together to make Knox College, Pauline's alma mater, the best school it could be. In the 1970s, the couple emigrated first to Toronto, then Hartford, driven by a desire to secure better educational opportunities for their four children. They arrived with ambition and a belief in hard work, community strength, and faith.

Scotts' Jamaican Bakery: Founded in 1979

Originally named Hartford West Indian Bakery, their business opened its doors on Albany Avenue in 1979. Despite growing competition, the Scotts expanded within eight years to four locations, including three in Hartford's North End and a site downtown called Boonoonoonoos, adorned with Jamaican tiles and bursting with island flavor. Over time, George rebranded the business to Scotts' Jamaican Bakery, centering its identity proudly around Jamaican heritage. While economic shifts and downtown closures affected foot traffic, the bakery adapted—Boonoonoonoos was moved to Bloomfield's Copaco center, and was eventually sold to George's Nephew, also named George Scott, who rebranded the business "Peppers" which today, remains a community favorite.

Their philosophy was simple yet powerful:

"We bake with love," George would say.

Pauline added, "And don't let anybody leave hungry."

A Partnership Rooted in Purpose

The Scotts' genuine love for each other and the community was the backbone of their success. George's quiet discipline and broad civic vision was balanced by Pauline's day-to-day dedication and warmth. While he focused on business growth and community-building, she kept the ovens hot, the counters spotless, and the staff focused on excellence. Early customers recall Pauline knowing their names, favorite treats, and even asking about their families. Meanwhile, her mother, grandmother to the Scott children, helped with baking cakes by hand during the bakery's earliest days.

continued on next page

Builders of a Community

George and Pauline were never just business owners; they were architects of civic and cultural progress. George helped found the West Indian Credit Union, empowering immigrants with financial tools and trust. He also served on numerous boards across Hartford, including: Hartford Courant Foundation, Upper Albany Main Street Merchants Association, Old State House, University of Hartford, St. Monica's Episcopal Church, Bradley Airport Commission, Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce. Pauline's tireless presence in the bakery enabled George's civic engagement. Together, they modeled how private enterprise could nurture public good.

Culture in Every Crumb

Their commitment to Caribbean culture was more than symbolic. Scotts' Jamaican Bakery sponsored festivals, supported youth music and poetry programs, and took part in events like the Taste of Hartford, the West Indian Independence Celebration, and Make Music Hartford. The bakery became not only a culinary hub but also a cultural salon. Whether through sponsoring a reggae night or donating to local schools and churches, the Scotts used food as a bridge, connecting generations and cultures, and supporting dreams.

A Living Legacy: The Scotts Today

Though Pauline and George have both passed on, their vision thrives. The bakery is currently run by their youngest son, Michael Scott, who continues his parents' foundation of community-rooted entrepreneurship. The Scotts story remains a beacon for Caribbean-Americans, and a reminder that the immigrant journey is not only about survival but about shaping the future with flavor and pride.

Voices from the Community

"They didn't just feed us—they built us." – longtime customer

"Their bakery was our community center." – Hartford youth mentor

"Pauline always knew your name and your story." – former employee

From Jamaica, land of wood and water, to the snowy streets of Hartford, Pauline and George Scott turned vision into vitality. They didn't just bring Jamaican food to Hartford. They brought joy, identity, and the sweet aroma of home. Their story is one of resilience, service, and soul, and their legacy lives on in every patty served, every child supported and mentored, and every institution strengthened by their touch.



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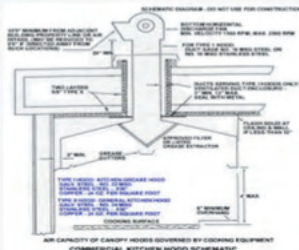
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Delroy Lingo

Delroy Lingo aka Delingo the Gospel Vibes Master
hails from the beautiful
parish of St Ann Jamaica
West Indies.

Delroy Lingo aka Delingo the Gospel Vibes Master, hails from the beautiful parish of St. Ann Jamaica, West Indies.

Delroy has been in the music fraternity for over thirty years. He is Manager, Entertainer, Producer, Distributer, Singer, Emcee, Free Lance Radio Announcer and Gospel Music Ambassador. He is a person of poise and class. While employed as Road Manager and Assistant Producer, Delingo searched for ways to enhance the music ministry, which resulted in the starting of his booking agency. He managed top Jamaican Artistes like Claudelle Clarke, Sis Scully, Sandra Brooks, Joan Flemmings, Schroeter Brothers, and others.

Delingo has that voice which captivates audiences and masters the art of an Emcee well. His passion for broadcasting opened opportunities in Jamaica as Radio Show Host with Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC), Love FM and Roots FM.

Mister Lingo, a great trendsetter, hosted concerts and awarded several Jamaican artists for their contributions to the music fraternity. His community involvement included outreach programs for the needy. His selfless work was recognized by which he received multiple awards. Delroy is humbled by all the recognition and attributes all praise to God.

In 1999, Delroy, a man with a mission, made his grand entrance to Atlanta, Georgia. With no time wasted, he launched Caribbean Gospel Music Program, "Gospel Vibes," which opened doors for various Jamaican artistes. His stay was short-lived, but his relocation to Hartford opened new opportunities for his ministry. He hosted concerts, emceed programs, and launched Genesis, a New Year's Eve concert. In recognition of this effort, he received a proclamation from the Mayor of Hartford, Eddie Perez, and Deputy Mayor Veronica Airey-Wilson. He is the recipient of numerous awards, among them are: Best Inspirational Show, Best Radio Personality, Emcee of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Delingo's passion for music and singing led him to the studio where he recorded his first song on the album, Fear Not, followed by a shared album, Pray On. His syndication formerly with Busy Radio and currently with Energy Radio and several international stations, makes his listenership by far the best. Delingo is successful and contributes to the Hartford Community. Gospel Vibes Radio with its motto, "For God to Be Glorified, His people to be Edified, and the devil to be terrified," is a spiritual enrichment to the lives of the listeners. His contribution to society has made him a recent recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Theology, for humanitarian services. Delingo is a Minister of the Gospel at Trinity Community Church, Hartford. He resides in Bloomfield, is happily married and is the father of three wonderful children.

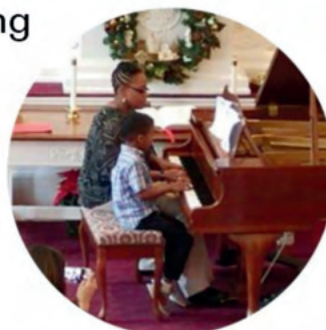
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A spotlight on ACA Uptown Foods

Written by: Marcia Whittingham

Deep in the Northend of Hartford there is what some would call a diamond in the ruff or maybe it's a plain gem. What started as a dream for a young boy traveling across the seas from Haiti in 1963, to the founder of a property management company and Vibz Uptown Flava LLC. we see a dream achieved not deferred. At that time, he was one of the few Caribbean property owners in the Northend of Hartford. Yvon had the vision of establishing a supermarket in an area where there were none in the community, long before the term "Food Desert".

So, who is behind this gem? Yvon Alexandre worked for 15 years in corporate America, learning all he could. He is a graduate of The University of Connecticut, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and acquired a Master of International Business from the University of New Haven. And as if that was not enough, he is a Certified Manager (CM), Institute of Certified Professional Manager, James Madison University. Yvon is married and a proud father of 3 sons! In his spare time, if he has any, he likes to play basketball, golf, and Ju Jitsu.

Yvon had a few dormant years before establishing ACA Uptown Foods in 1991. As they say, "the proof is in the pudding". Yvon owned Uptown Vibz (night club) as well as ACA Supermarket (still owns). Yvon got the recipe right with ACA Uptown Foods now in existence for 30 years! ACA soon became one of CT largest distributors of Wholesale Caribbean foods.

I had a few questions for Yvon:

Where did the name ACA originate? This came from original business, Alexander Clark Associates (1989)- incorporated (Clark was his partner at the time; however, Yvon later bought him out). In 2005 we went on to establish Caribbean Import Products LLC (corporate name dba as ACA Uptown Foods). He kept the ACA because everyone was familiar with the name.

Yvon solved a need in the community. He had a drive to provide local Caribbean restaurants and stores with a wholesale outlet at a time when Caribbean products were not easily available. Many of the businesses at the time had to go to New York to get certain items. ACA also was able to obtain items not even available in New York. In fact, he was able to offer competitive prices on items from the islands of Trinidad, Barbados, Haiti, St. Lucia and Jamaica.

Have you had to make changes to keep up with big box stores or online competition?

"I don't really consider the Big Box Stores my competition. I know I cannot match their prices, what I have is a more personal approach with our customers. We provide hard-to-find products, and our staff are knowledgeable in relation to the Caribbean product lines".

What has been the most rewarding part of running this store for 30 years?

"There are many rewarding experiences and outcomes over the past 30 years. I have been able to provide jobs and work experiences to many people over the year. I have had young workers that have gone on to complete their education and become attorney, nurses and some have started their own businesses".

What are you most proud of?

"I am proud that I have been able to provide a home away from home to many customers. When you can feed your family the same foods that you grew up on it is a blessing. I'm proud that we provide healthy foods to an underserved community. I'm proud that I have employees that have been with me for over 30 years".

What were some of the biggest challenges faced in the early years?

"There were many challenges in the early years of being in business. I believe all new businesses face similar struggles. The number one is funding. You never have the resources needed to grow your business. It is difficult to get the banks to finance your business. Being a new business and being a minority owned and operated business made it even more challenging".

Can you share a memorable moment where the store really made a difference for someone in the neighborhood?

"The store has made a difference in many lives throughout the years. I believe that I was able to help Haiti after the 2010 earthquake because ACA Foods was here. We used ACA Foods as the anchor to collect supplies, recruit volunteers and coordinated the relief efforts which resulted in 2 medical missions and food distribution in Haiti".

What started as a story about a local supermarket, became so much more! One of the things that was apparent to me is that what makes Yvon successful is his passion to give back to the community and hire from the community over the years. He is the poster child of what a lot of hard work, dedication and a level of love for what you are doing does. Yvon has achieved the #1 goal of most businesses - a loyal customer base. He said some customers go back to 1992 (original address 2880 main street warehouse).

ACA Still does some wholesale to the Springfield and Hartford area (but not as much as when originally started). Yvon is the owner proprietor of 3155 Main Street (Plaza) and member of Hartford Enterprise Zone. If you haven't shopped at ACA Uptown Foods, now is the time!



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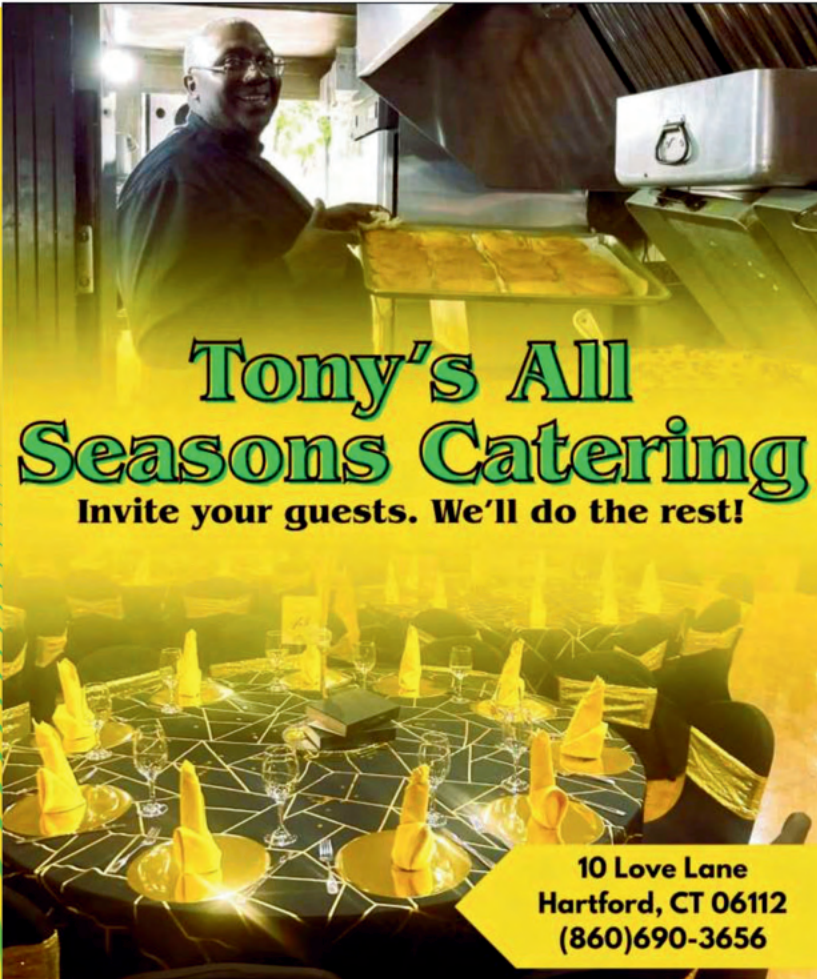
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The West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BIRTHDAY FRIDAYS

3RD FRIDAYS, EVERY MONTH

FOUNDERS DAY

OCTOBER 18TH

SNOWFLAKES & SHADOW

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 2025

NEW YEARS CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2025

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026

76TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH, 2026

SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

JUNE 2026

CELEBRATION WEEK

AUGUST 2ND - 8TH, 2026

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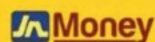
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