



The James Alves Award

Lady Floella Benjamin (Baroness of Beckenham) presents the James Alves Awards (2011 Edition)

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| ❖Dr M.H. Jamal Abadi | ❖Mae Lee Jordan |
| ❖Dr. Edman Chamley | ❖Patrick White |
| ❖Garnet Mungalsingh | ❖Jennifer Daulat-Araujo |
| ❖Merlene Phillip | ❖Joseph Vautor-La Placeliere |
| ❖Leticia Rodriguez Cupid | ❖Arthur Richards |
| ❖Rudolph and Claudette Paponette | ❖Malcolm Diaz |



The Awardees



Dr. M.H. Jamal Abadi
(Ophthalmologist)

Over the past 30 years, he distinguished himself in the service of persons who are blind by providing eye care free of cost to patients who are referred to him by the Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association (TTBWA).



Dr. Edman Chamley
(Medical Doctor and Health Care Philanthropist)

For more than 25 years, Dr Chamley distinguished himself in the service of persons who are blind by providing general health care to patients who are referred to his practice by the TTBWA.



Garnet Mungalsingh
(Attorney-at-Law and Advocate for the blind)

He gave invaluable legal services in the development and passage of the Equal Opportunities Act of Trinidad and Tobago.

Merlene Phillip

(A Special Education Teacher)

She gave more than 25 years of dedicated service in the education of children who are blind in Trinidad and Tobago. In recognition of years of long and dedicated service, she was presented with the James Alves Award.



Leticia Rodriguez Cupid

(A Special Education Teacher with a focus on Inclusive Education)

For more than 21 years she has “leveled the playing field” for children who are blind, by helping them gain access to equal education opportunities along with their sighted peers.(Her daughter accepted the award on her behalf).

Rudolph and Claudette Paponette

(Educators and Youth Workers)

Recognising more than 25 years of team-work, educating and training children who are blind or visually impaired, including the development of a Scouting Troop at the School for Blind Children.





Mae Lee Jordan

(Special Educator, Carnival Enthusiast and Activist Lion)

More than 24 years of educating children who are blind in Trinidad. She also made Carnival a part of the extra-Curricula experiences of her pupils with visual impairments.

(Note: Mae Lee Jordon was absent from the ceremony)



Patrick White

(Distinguished Linguist and Educator)

Graduate of oxford with Honours in Languages and a Diploma in Education, he married a Trinidadian whom he met while studying at Oxford. He migrated to Trinidad on May 6th 1957, taught languages at a number of leading Schools in Trinidad, including St. Georges, St Mary's and Queens Royal College. He served as Vice-Principal at Queens Royal College for 22 years.



Jennifer Daulat-Araujo

(Psychology and Sociology Major, Career Welfare Services Manager and Author)

Attended the Tunapuna Hindu Primary and the St Charles Girls High School. At 15, she visited Canada in search of treatment for Glaucoma; received Adjustment to Blindness training at CNIB, in Canada and graduated from the University of Winnipeg with Honours in Psychology. Returned home in 1982 and after 54 unsuccessful attempts to find employment she was recruited by TTBWA. She has acted as Executive Officer and is Head of Welfare and Rehabilitation Services; she has published 2 books.



Joseph Vautor-La Placeliere
(The Mighty Lingo, Extempo Extraordinaire)

He attended the Trinidad and Tobago School for Blind Children - 1975-1985; admitted to St Joseph College from 1985-1989. The Mighty Lingo began a promising career as a Calypsonian in 1999. Over the past 11 years, this Extempo Genius made the national finals 9 times. He placed in the top three - six times, with two (3rds) one (2nd) and came first on three occasions. He received awards and recognitions from a wide cross-section of Government and Civil Society including - W.R. Torres Foundation for the Blind; TTBWA, PAVI and the Ministry of Social Development. The All-Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union presented him with the Gold Medal for Labour.



Arthur Richards
(Pupil of James Alves and Founder of the San Fernando Workshop For the Blind in 1950)

Born in 1922 and admitted to the Centre of the Blind at Duke Street in 1936; a pupil of James Alves until 1940. He described James Alves as a very nice chap; "He was a big and tall man from Guyana", Arthur retired as Chief Instructor in 1985. (His son accepted the Award on his behalf)



Malcolm Diaz (Companion/Contemporary of James Alves)

In touch with James Alves from 1946 to the 1960's; he attended the New Town Boys Roman Catholic School; trained as a stenographer before he lost his sight, joined the Association's programme for the Blind in 1946. He was trained by Joseph Purtie who took over from James Alves. Vice-President of the TTBWA 1986-1990. Today he is still an active member of TTBWA.



Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE, was presented with a special award thanking her for participating in the CCB's 44th Anniversary General Meeting.