

82nd Street Business Improvement District
37-06 82nd Street,
3rd Floor
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
(718) 335-9421

Ecuadorian Chamber
61 Main Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601
201-343-0138

Flushing Chinese Business Association
40-48 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11354
718-358-7228

Greater Jamaica Development Corporation
90-04 161st Street
Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 291-0282

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
76-11 37th Avenue
Suite 203
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

JFK International Airport Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 300687
Jamaica, NY 11430
631-231-8820

Junction Boulevard Merchants Association
35-22 B
Junction Boulevard
Corona, NY 11368
718-899-6563

Maspeth Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 780265
Maspeth, NY 11378
(718) 429-2363

Middle Village Chamber of Commerce
79-02 Metropolitan Avenue
Middle Village, NY 11379
(718) 326-0970

Queens Economic Development Corporation
120-55 Queens Boulevard
Suite 309
Kew Gardens, NY 11424
(718) 263-0546

Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce
31-10 Thomson Avenue,
Suite M222
Long Island City,
NY 11101
(718) 482-6053

Rockaway Chamber of Commerce
253 Beach 116th Street
Rockaway, NY 11694
(718) 634-1300

Woodside on the Move
39-42 59th Street,
2nd Floor
Woodside, NY 11356
(718) 476-8449

Forming Global Community Alliances: Guyanese-American Business and Professional Council Launched



Photo courtesy/Guyanese-American Business & Professional Council

Borough President Helen Marshall (fourth from right) joined members of the Guyanese-American Business & Professional Council at their launch gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

By John L. Aaron

The recent launching of a network group named the Guyanese-American Business & Professional Council (GABPC) in New York is a welcome sign for a shrinking world where humankind is becoming ever so interdependent. The saying that a man is not an island could not be more apt, with the launching of GABPC at the Crowne Plaza LaGuardia.

The GABPC is a catalyst movement in an environment made smaller with the proliferation of the World Wide Web and the speed of communication via such media. The GABPC is truly a microcosm of the society in which we live, where Guyanese cannot be dependent upon Guyanese alone, but the broader Diaspora demands that we form bonds for survival. The "marriage" of Guyanese and non-Guyanese American professionals in the formation of the GABPC is indicative of the much-needed interdependency of our global society.

Headed by President Leyland Hazelwood and First Vice President Shanie Persaud, the group consists of entrepreneurs, medical doctors and others representing dynamic sectors of the business and professional communities. The inaugural gala event at the Crowne Plaza was attended by more than 200 guests who were entertained by a live band and an impromptu piano recital by well-known Guyanese pianist Dr. Keith "the Professor" Proctor.

One of the highlights of the evening was the inaugural recognition award presented to Queens Borough President Helen B. Marshall, a Guyanese by parentage, who recently visited Guyana for the very first time.

Sponsored by several non-traditional Guyanese support businesses, the event took on a feeling of a Guyanese-American Chamber of Commerce, with a mix of mainstream commercial, community-service businesses and private and public sector professionals. Of note, was the strong support of the medical and community health organizations. Clearly, the GABPC has identified community health as one of the areas in which they may play a significant role in helping Guyana.

Dr. Roy Thomasson, CEO of the Young Business Trust of America remarked, "...our business world is usually seen in 'isms,' but is now seen simply as survival." The keynote speaker lauded the GABPC for, "having the vision to help others see opportunities, not problems."

The GABPC should be complimented not only for putting together an amalgamation of talent and expertise to govern the organization, but more importantly to develop the passion for others to follow, while making a significant contribution to the business, social and economic sectors of the Guyanese society.

For more information, the Guyanese-American Business & Professional Council may be reached on the web at www.GABPC.org

**Check out the new and improved
Chamber website at
www.queenschamber.org**