



## **Outstanding and Spectacular Weekend of Grenada's 42nd Independent Celebration**

Grenada Cultural Association of South Florida (GCA) presented an exuberant blast of Grenada's Carnival-Historic Mas, Community Development in Grenada, Supporting Youths in Grenada and South Florida at GCA's 26<sup>th</sup> Dinner-Dance and Church Service honoring 42<sup>nd</sup> Year of Grenada's Independence.

Over 200 guests from many Countries and Grenadians were welcomed to Grenadians favorite and tasty foods such as fry bakes, fry salt fish, fry breadfruit, coo-coo, callaloo dip, coconut buns and Current rolls for cocktail at the Sheraton-Fort Lauderdale Airport Hilton, 1825 Griffin Road Florida 33004 on February 6, 2016.

The evening program was MC by Grenada's former Honorary Consul General in Miami Richard Nixon under the leadership of GCA President Elizabeth Allick. Throughout the evening and the hours that followed attendees have been describing the Dinner-Dance celebration as excellent, outstanding, extraordinary, well organized, entertaining and very interesting in an exuberant atmosphere of historic culture and patriotism.

Dinner-Dance Highlights included General Secretary of Grenada Community Development Agency (GRENCODA) as keynote Speaker Mrs. Judy Ellen Williams who outlined GRENCODA's 30 years of dedication, commitment, out-reach, mentoring, empowerment, and partnering the organization Core Values of equity, social justice and inclusiveness. GRENCODA utilizes support tools such as finances, education, training, legal aid, counseling, advocacy, research, mobilization, business development, policy changes and institutional strengthening to reach families and especially children, youth and young mothers through communities in Grenada, Carriacou and Pettie Martinique. GCA is extremely happy with the level of corporation, partnership and support we are giving to GRENCODA. Mrs. Williams' presence, address and call for Grenadians in the Diaspora to assist and help sustain the common goals and objectives will serve as a testimony in building a stronger partnership bond between GRENCODA and GCA. Grenada's Historic Mas was a hit as most of our guest were up on their feet with their smart phones getting videos and pictures of every move as the Moco Jumbie, Shortknee, Jab Jab and Vieux Corps entered in live colorful costumes, jumping and dancing with pulsating Caribbean music. It was simply spectacular with got you moments. Other highlights includes Dunblare Scholarship recipient 18 year old Danielle Coard for her essay about "Pros

and Cons of Electronic Media and its Effects on Grenadian Youth;” The Founders Scholarship was awarded to Tamicka Augustine; Mr. Leonard “LEO” Augustine received the GCA 2016 Community Service Award and other Service Awards were given to many members of GCA. GCA 2016-2018 Executive Members were also presented – President Elizabeth Allick; Vice President Gerald James; Secretary Mona Hood-Julien; Treasurer Stephanie Vincent; Assistant Treasurer/Secretary Danielle Marecheau; Parliamentarian Arthur Marecheau; Public Relations Arlene White; Liaison Officers Christopher Hinds, Frank James and Joseph Alexander; Senior Coordinator Sonia Marrayshow-Duncan; Youth Coordinator Earl Allick; Advisors Gordon Telesford, Eulette Edwards and Kenneth Nedd.

GCA Independent celebration climaxed with some 70 Grenadians, Africans, Caribbean and Americans in a welcoming high spirited and humorous worship celebrative service at Holy Family Episcopal Church lead by Father Horace Ward on Sunday morning February 7, 2016. Mrs. Judy Williams gave an inspiring, uplifting and captivating presentation emphasizing the value of sustainable support to reaching and empowering children and youth as the future leaders and mentors throughout Grenada. Deputy Counsel General Yoland Smith also gave the Independent address which was followed with a festive feast of Grenadian foods. The Independent Celebrations evoked the spirit of commitment, togetherness, empowerment and partnership to serving people first and especially to our fellow citizens in greatest need. Long live our beautiful Nation and diverse Citizenry.