Health Care Advocates International

HCAI is not only a medical office that offers primary health care, HIV/AIDS services & mental health services but we are also Stigma Warriors fighting shame & discrimination in the LGBTQ+ community through our initiatives:

Zimbabwe AIDS Project

Youth & Family Program

HIV Advocates
19TH ANNUAL
DOROTHY
AWARDS
RETURN TO OZ
Honoring LGBTQ+ Nutmeggers Making a Difference

Saturday, March 12, 2022

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Anchor Health is Connecticut’s leading health center for the LGBTQ community. We bring groundbreaking, radically inclusive, gender-affirming, and sex-positive care to every patient who walks through our doors.
Welcome to the
19th Annual Dorothy Awards

Can you believe that it has been two years since we have been able to share space like this? Our last big in-person gathering as a community was the 17th Annual Dorothy Awards, just days before the initial COVID-19 lockdown. Two years later (almost to the day), we gather to celebrate, laugh, cry, and be joyous together again.

Thank you all for joining us tonight as we return to Oz for the 19th Annual Dorothy Awards and we honor Kamora Le’Ella Herrington, Dr. AJ Eckert, John and Luis Pepe, Jaime Myers-McPhail, and Dave Cruz-Bustamante. To our honorees, each of you have touched me personally, changed the way I do the work, and made me better for it. I’d like to extend a personal congratulations and thank you to each of you for all you do to impact, uplift, and change our community for the better.

The New Haven Pride Center is in such a different place than it was the last time we gathered for a Dorothy Awards Ceremony. The past two years have molded us, re-focused us, and forced us to reconcile the meaning behind the work that we do. I am humbled to work beside our honorees, our colleagues, our partners, our community, and the entire staff and board of the New Haven Pride Center every day as we collectively ensure that every LGBTQ+ person in our state feels connected, supported, and loved.

Tonight we stand together. This unity is vital as we emerge from the second health crisis our community has had to face in the past four decades. We must continue to stand together and celebrate each other as we collectively combat oppression against our community and the self-oppression we impose on each other. We must stand together and say no to biphobia, transphobia, sexism, racism, ableism, xenophobia and all of the other oppressive behaviours that affect our community.

We are all Friends of Dorothy, no matter who we are, how we identify, or where we come from. Thank you for joining us tonight.

Patrick J Dunn
Executive Director
2022 SCHOLARSHIP

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE JUNE 1ST

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A portion of the money raised from the Dorothy Awards goes towards the $8,500 that we give out to scholarships every year.
Awards Ceremony Schedule

Awards Ceremony will begin at 7:30p

Before the Awards Ceremony enjoy the music stylings of Carrie Ashton and Marc Esposito in the lobby.

Opening Number : A Journey to Oz

Welcome

Performance : Roxxxy Andrews

Rising Star Award : Dave Cruz-Bustamante

Performance : Miss Frank

Performance : Chez Legends & Headliners

Dorothy Award : John and Luis Pepe

Performance : Tiana Maxim Rose

Performance : Loosey LaDuca with Kiki Lucia

Dorothy Award : Jaime Myers-McPhail

Performance : Natalia Fierce

Special Presentation by the Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut

Performance : The Kings of Connecticut

Dorothy Award : Kamora Le’Ella Herrington

Performance : Kiki Lucia

Dorothy Award : Dr. AJ Eckert

Performance : Barbra Joan Streetsand

Performance : Roxxxy Andrews

Closing Remarks
Kamora Le’Ella Herrington
Founder of Kamora’s Cultural Corner

Kamora Le’Ella Herrington (she/her) is a mother first, in all of the ways that a mother is. She is the founder and visionary of Kamora’s Cultural Corner, a Black Queer Afrocentric organization dedicated to creating brave spaces, and is active in the field of cultural humility. Through the years she has worked with numerous organizations and groups committed to marginalized communities and has a proven track record of “creating spaces where families are free to love their children.”

Kamora is a member of the National Black Justice Coalition’s (NBJC) Leadership Advisory Council, a founding member of CT Black Women, and a current board member of Pride in the Hills.

“I’ve lived a life that has placed me in positions where I could either uphold the status quo or share truths that may not be pleasant, but are necessary. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for - humans willing to step in when necessary and step out when it’s time.”
AJ Eckert, DO (they/them/he/him) is Connecticut’s first out nonbinary trans doctor and serves as the Medical Director of Anchor Health’s Gender & Life-Affirming Medicine (GLAM) Program. Dr. Eckert has over 15 years’ experience in LGBTQ health care, with 8 years as a provider of primary care and gender-affirming services.

After Dr. Eckert completed their education at Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine and residency at NEOMEN/Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Program, they decided to specialize in LGBTQ health. Dr. Eckert is board certified in Family Medicine. He is an assistant clinical professor of family medicine at Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University.

Outside of their clinical work with patients, Dr. Eckert is active in education and advocacy. In 2021, Science-Based Medicine published four of Dr. Eckert’s articles, and the Journal of Medical Ethics asked him to be a reviewer. The upcoming 2nd edition of The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals features a quote from Dr. Eckert. They were on the 2021 Abstract Review Committee for the United States Professional Association for Transgender Health, or USPATH. Dr. Eckert’s expertise in his field has led him to be quoted in The Washington Post and The New York Times, among others. Additionally, they have piloted a 4th-year medical student rotation at Anchor Health.

Read the rest of Dr. Eckert’s bio at dorothyawards.org/.
John and Luis Pepe (he/him and he/him) are the proud owners of The Chez Est in Hartford, central Connecticut’s premier LGBTQ+ bar, restaurant, and cabaret space. They purchased The Chez in October of 2017 and have transformed the space into a cherished second home for the local community. Prior to owning the Chez, John worked in big box retail for 10 years; he started working at The Chez in 2003, first as a DJ and then as a bartender. Luis currently works as a Surgical Assistant at Clear Choice Dental and is in school to become a Respiratory Therapist. In recent years, Luis has also continued to perfect the art of drag and regularly creates beautiful gowns, hair, and makeup. John and Luis have been married since July of 2016, and they live in Wethersfield, Connecticut with their two children Orin and Luciano.

They enjoy spending time and making memories with their children and beloved chosen family.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, John and Luis launched a series of beautiful renovations at The Chez, including the addition of a professional grade kitchen and a brand new food and drink menu that allowed them to bring the community together again. The Chez hosts many of Connecticut’s greatest drag shows and events. John and Luis are avid supporters of the Connecticut drag community and have raised many up-and-coming drag artists through the annual Chez Legends drag competition.

Read the rest of John and Luis's bio at dorothyawards.org.
Jaime Myers-McPhail (they/them) is a staff organizer with New Haven Rising, a grassroots organization fighting for racial and economic justice. While struggling to survive and longing for some way to fight back, they stumbled on a scrappy group that was figuring out how to shift power and resources and empower people to have a voice in the decisions that impact their lives. In 2010, Jaime started knocking on doors with the Community Voter Project and learned to build consensus with neighbors and wage campaigns. After several years of volunteering, recruiting, and training others, Jaime joined the NHR staff. Jaime has also worked on labor campaigns, including a bottom-up unionization drive in Colorado supporting immigrant airline catering workers at United Airlines.

Jaime believes that anti-capitalist collective liberation work requires prioritizing redlined communities, centering black leadership, and breaking down barriers to individual and collective action. The basis of worker and community solidarity is the relationships forged in struggle and mutual self-interest across lines of difference. When we step outside of bourgeois social norms and push one another to overcome the things that hold us back, we can re-humanize ourselves and one another and win back our power and our wealth.
Dave Cruz-Bustamante

LGBTQ+ Youth Organizer

Dave Cruz-Bustamante (he/him/they/them) is a queer, socialist, working-class organizer and high schooler in New Haven, Connecticut. They are a proud child of immigrants and a descendant of Ecuadorian workers, farmers, and professionals. They work at CityWide Youth Coalition as a community outreach coordinator and political education fellow. They plan community events, critical discussions, and provide a space for folks to express and discover themselves and the world around them in an anti-racist, liberatory way.

They commit themselves to truth, abolition, reflection, and love for their community in their efforts to transform our world, because a better world is necessary. By themselves, they make no difference in the world. They merely help in facilitating the power, imagination, beauty, and passion of the collective.
Entertainment

In Order of Appearance

Carrie Ashton
Marc Esposito
Kiki Lucia
Roxxy Andrews

Bubblicious
Laiylah A.W. Laiylah
Rory Roux Lay
Crystal Starz
Midnight

Mia E Z'LAY
Giganta Smalls
Natalia Fiercé
Astra S'LAY
Amethyst

Tiana Maxim Rose
Miss Frank
Loosey LaDuca
Frankie M. Cyanide
Paxx Headroom

Perry Winkle
Barbra Joan Streetstand
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Past Honorees

2021
Ahmad Abojaradeh
Dr. Gary Blick
Rep. Raven Matherne
Sy Fraiser, Sun Queen,
Dawnise Traore, &
ala ochumare

2020
Suzanne Kachmar
Ricky Mestre
Nadine Ruff, MSW
Gretchen Raffa
OutCT
Joe Grabarz

2019
IV Staklo
Juancarlos Soto
Bernard Lanche &
David Kleman
Yale Cabaret

2018
Dr. A.C. Demidont
State Sen Beth Bye
State Rep Jeff Currey
Sonia Salazar
GLSEN Connecticut

2017
Dandy Lions
Paul Kuehn & George Appleby
Triangle Community Center

2016
Fleurette King
Selma Miriam
Dolores Dégagé Hopkins &
Sassie Saltimboca*
CT Trans Advocacy Coalition

2015
Anne Beon
Frank DeMayo
Trevor Reynolds & Michael
Morgan
True Colors*

2014
Betty Gallo
Joe Mannetti
Christine O'Leary
APNH: A Place to Nourish Your
Health (formerly AIDS Project
New Haven)

2013
Irwin Krieger
Carolyn & Leslie Gabel-Brett
Sweetheart Invitational

2012
Mayor Pedro Segarra
Diana Richter
Robin Banks
Out Film CT

2011
Rev. Marilyn Bowens
Tony Ferrarolo
Robb Bartolomeo
Northeast Ursame

2010
Michaël Morand
Dena Castricone
Leif Mitchell
Imperial Sovereign Court of All
Connecticut

2009
Rev. John Maclver Gage
Fran Rzeznik & Zinka Benton
Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus

2008
Vincent Farricelli &
Robert Modena
Patricia Nicolari
Another Octave

2007
Linda Estabrook
Curtis Miller &
Peter Goodman
Jerimarie Liesegang*

2006
David Knapp
Anne Stanback
Maureen Murphy
Michael Lawlor

2005
Bobbi Blake &
Cyd Slotorhoff
John Anderson
Robin Passariello McHaelan

2004
Ellen Gabrielle*
Joseph Goodwin &
George Coyle
Stephanie Philips

Past Rising Star Honorees
Jahnice Cajigas
Mel Cordner
Roslyn Cecilia Sotero
Dominic Warshaw
Rose Wong*
Seth Wallace

* Indicates past honorees who are no longer with us.
HCAI is a health & advocacy organization dedicated to serving the needs of the LGBTQ+ community through prevention, programs, education, advocacy & treatment.

For more info check us out at:
www.hcaillc.com

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

Kamora Le'Ella Herrington
Dr. AJ Eckert
John & Luis Pepe
Jaime Myers-McPhail
Dave Cruz-Bustamante

from your friends at:

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The New Haven Pride Center

WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBERS
(Since the 17th Annual Dorothy Awards)

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Finn Lockwood
Trans Programming

Suyane Oliveira
Women's Programming

Freddie Swindal
Case Management

Devanté Dodgens
Grants Manager

Ace Ricker
Community Impact Manager

Jahnice Canjias
Youth Conference Producer

Joseph DiMaggio
Director of Development
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NORWALK, CT

June 4th: Pride Silent Disco
June 11th: Pride in the Park
June 18th: Pride Parade of Sail

CTPRIDECENTER.ORG/PRIDE-IN-THE-PARK
Connecticut Pride, a division of Advancing CT Together, is dedicated to ensuring access to resources for the LGBTQ+ community.
WHAT IS CULTURAL EQUITY?

- Creating the conditions under which all people can express their culture fully.

- Changing existing cultures, especially within institutions, that do not recognize and lift up the humanity of all people.

- Redistributing resources and power to people systematically under-resourced by our society, and supporting vibrant cultural expression in every community.

@newhavencultural
Never put those ruby slippers in the closet again

Join today! Become part of the conversation

Membership is Free

19TH ANNUAL DOROTHY AWARDS

CWCSEO Congratulates the Dorothy Awards honorees for their impact on creating positive change for Connecticut’s LGBTQ+ community and for being shining stars for LGBTQ+ visibility in our state.

The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity

Mission:
To inform and engage all policy makers around equity issues impacting women, children, & seniors along with a focus on Latino/Puerto Rican, African American & Asian Pacific American families living in Connecticut.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity
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cwcseo@cga.ct.gov
wp.cga.ct.gov/cwcseo
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OutCT would like to congratulate the 2022 award recipients

19TH ANNUAL DOROTHY AWARDS

THANK YOU for all you do

PrideFEST 2022
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March ♥ Rally ♥ Concert
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Congratulations To All The 2022 Dorothy Award Honorees

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Bravo!
Congratulations to the New Haven Pride Center and this year’s Dorothy Award Honorees.

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- every 1st Tuesday in Manchester, CT
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CONGRATULATIONS
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CONGRATULATIONS

To tonight's honorees and to the New Haven Pride Center for its great work. Love from all of us at Long Wharf Theatre.

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**Congratulations to tonight’s honorees!**

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CONGRATULATIONS
To this year's Dorothy Award Honorees

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CONGRATULATIONS!
to all the 2022 Dorothy Awards Honorees

Kamora Le’Ella Herrington
Founder of Kamora’s Cultural Corner

Dr. AJ Eckert
Medical Director at Anchor Health

John and Luis Pepe
Owners of the Chez Est

Jaime Myers-McPhail
Lead Organizer, New Haven Rising

Dave Cruz-Bustamante
LGBTQ+ Youth Organizer
IN LOVING MEMORY...

JOHN "JACK" GARITY

The Department of Social Work at
Southern Connecticut State University
congratulates this year's
DOROTHY AWARDS HONOREES

Thank you for your powerful leadership and important contributions to our community.
Congratulations
Kamora

We're so very proud of you and honored to have you on our Advisory Board.

You're an inspiration.

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