

A Celebration Of History And Culture

Dr. Irene Betty Hylton honored with lifetime achievement award

The Islamic Center of Long Island (ICLI) celebrated the achievements and experiences of African-Americans in U.S. history and on Long Island during its 15th annual Black History Month Celebration on March 11.

The event was entitled "A Celebration of Black Life, History and Culture," and drew a large audience to the lower level of the ICLI to enjoy impassioned presentations by distinguished and well-respected community leaders. The keynote speaker was Frederick K. Brewington, Esq., a prominent civil rights attorney on Long Island, who delivered a mesmerizing and riveting speech about slavery, equality and the need for continued hope.

The honorary speaker was Dorothy L. Goosby, senior councilwoman for the Town of Hempstead and the first African-American to serve on the town board, who captivated the audience with her touching personal and historical accounts of Hempstead.

Dr. Irene "Betty" Hylton, an educator, community advocate and activist from Westbury, was honored with ICLI's Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented to outstanding women and men who have made significant contributions to the lives of others.

Hylton shared heartfelt thoughts regarding the importance of volunteerism and her passion for community service.

Joining the celebration and enthraling the audience with her background and rhythmic poetry was Renee McRae, a charismatic poetic motivator, author, poet and founder of Poetic Motivations, LLC. Local fiber artist Dr. Alicia Evans, of The Hidden Talents Fiber Arts Collection, also displayed her beautifully handwoven wool and wood tree artistry.

The celebration was truly a wonderful community event with guests representing local and various political, educational and business organizations across Long Island and the New York City area. The program came to a memorable close with networking and the enjoyment of entrees catered by members of the Islamic Center's community.

The Black History Month Committee was comprised of Dr. Isma Chaudhry, chairperson; the ICLI board of trustees; Habeeb Ahmed, president of ICLI; Zainab Bey, vice president of ICLI; and Seema Rahman, board member of ICLI.

While Black History Month is usually celebrated in February, due to unforeseen scheduling conflicts, the ICLI commemorated the annual event in March.

—Submitted by the ICLI



Habeeb Ahmed, Zainab Bey, Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby and Dr. Irene Betty Hylton