

# Beacon On The Scene

## Nearly 400 guests jammed on HCCI's Jamboree benefit dinner cruise!

By Audrey J. Bernard  
Style & Society Editor

There was smooth sailing aboard the Spirit of New York cruise ship leaving from Chelsea Piers on Thursday, August 7, 2014 with almost 400 decked to the nines guests joining **Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI)** for its tenth Jamboree benefit dinner cruise!

This was the ultimate moonlight cruise as guests enjoyed all-you-can eat buffet, live entertainment hosted by **Liz Black** of WBSL 107.5 FM and WLIB 1190 AM, specialty libations, two DJs, and dancing to secular tunes. And they even had something for the non-worldly music lovers — the entire lower deck was dedicated to gospel music under the direction of WLIB 1190 AM host and evangelist **Neicy Tribbett** and featured alive gospel show.

This was the ultimate moonlight cruise on the Hudson replete with magnificent views of New York's historic shoreline and envious skyline from a river view including several landmark bridges and the pride of the harbor, the stately Statute of Liberty. What a wonderful backdrop for a mini-concert by Academy Award winner **Regina Belle** — who performed all of her classics — along with saxophonist **Darren Anderson**.

"Each Jamboree is better than the last," exclaimed HCCI Chairman, Rev. Dr. **Charles Curtis**. "Unlike our annual gala, the Jamboree is priced so that our residents can afford to participate. Our goal is to encourage a sense of ownership and commitment to HCCI, among community residents. It's a wonderful community effort!"

Proceeds from this event benefits the HCCI Computer Clubhouse and HCCI's Financial Literary program. This year, a premiere sponsor **United Business Solutions (UBSNA)** joined the effort with Citi, City National Bank, Columbia University, Exact Capital, H&N Insurance Agency, Inc., and WinnResidential serving as co-sponsors.

In addition, Harlem News Group and Harlem World served as media sponsors. This was one of HCCI's most successful cruise outings to date. Kudos to event producers **Carlisa Brown Simons**, HCCI's vice president of corporate relations and **Moikgantsi Kgama**, HCCI's communications director for a memorable *sea-rific* sailing experience!

"One of the main reasons we host this event is to introduce new people to our work," said HCCI's President & CEO, **Derek E. Broomes**. "Thankfully, HBSNA joined this year as a new sponsor, which came in at the highest level. Also Interstate Ad-

justers and Total Restoration, Inc. each gave donations and committed to support future initiatives."

HCCI is a diverse interfaith consortium of more than 90 congrega-

tions established to revitalize the physical, economic, cultural, and spiritual conditions of the Harlem community.

HCCI has made a substantial im-

pact on the social and living conditions prevalent in Harlem by developing low to moderate income housing; creating supportive health and human service facilities

and programs; providing commercial development opportunities to local businesses; and expanding cultural programs. (Photo Credit: Macdonald Layne)



HCCI Board members with Regina Belle (L-R) Derek Broomes, president & CEO; Joan O Dawson, Ph. D., first vice chair; Regina Belle; Rev. Charles Curtis, Ed D., chairman of the board, Rev. Sherman Lee, Sr., chair, Jamboree committee



Rev. Dr. Charles Butler, HCCI's vice president of equitable development, Malcolm Punter, Pat Stevenson, publisher of The Harlem News and Derek Broomes



Regina Belle is flanked by Jamboree event producers Carlisa Brown Simons and Moikgantsi Kgama



Group of HCCI guests enjoy Jamboree



Malcolm Punter and his wife Aarian enjoy the Jamboree!

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