

Elliot Adderley

Kristyn Scorsone

Debra Holmes

Esperanza Santos



Circle of Friends

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS NEWARK

6pm Friday, July 14, 2023

MUSIC BY:



Honoring Founder
James Credle



ARTfront
GALLERIES

44 WILLIAMS ST. NEWARK, NJ 07102



QUEER NEWARK
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



Special Performance

Empress Vizcaya



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CREDLE**



**SPECIAL
CONGRATULATIONS**

"To our 2023 recipients. We could never have a successful effort as this without your full support and energy. Thanks again and again!"

-Dean James Credle



Circle of Friends



Circle of Friends

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS NEWARK

Circle of Friends Awards is a non-profit project created by Dean James Credle following his retirement from Rutgers University-Newark to further the interests he pursued during his tenure there from 1968 to 2005.

Circle of Friends Awards continues to receive support from various entities in our community, across the US and internationally via the Netherlands.

Circle of Friends Awards recognize students' work in various community oriented endeavors and services representing diverse community needs by granting scholarships. We have donated more than \$90,000.00 to individuals in Greater Newark, New Jersey, across the county and several countries around the world, including Africa. The total amount of each award is based on the total of funds collected each year and/ or the funds contributed via other sources.

Each Circle of Friends Awards Scholarship is in honor of role models who have provided a wide range of community services and key community members who have made positive contributions in Greater Newark.

"He Who Plants Peace, Harvests Love"



DEAN MARK SCHUSTER AWARD



Elliot Adderley

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS AWARDS

2023

Elliot Adderley is a gay transgender man from Shreveport, Louisiana. He moved to New Jersey in 2019 to attend college and seek a safer environment to explore his identity.

He recently graduated from Rutgers New Brunswick with a BA in Art History with a minor in Russian. During his time attending Rutgers, he worked in several positions within the Center for Social Justice Education & LGBT Communities' (SJE) clubs and organizations. Starting as a secretary in TransMissions (TM), the non-binary and transgender club, and treasurer for Queer Caucus (QC), the umbrella organization for the LGBTQIA+ community at Rutgers, he would then move to be president of TransMissions for 3 semesters and vice president of Queer Caucus for 2 semesters.

During his time at TM, he fostered a space for those who identify as transgender to be safe at Rutgers, provided information for those who sought to legally change their name and gender marker in NJ, resources to transgender healthcare, and continued the organization's tradition of holding a Transgender Day of Remembrance candle-lit vigil. He also helped bring to fruition a new event for the spring called T4T Party, a transgender-centered tea party to celebrate gender and euphoria.

As vice president of Queer Caucus, he helped usher in a new era of the organization that sought to center advocacy and intersectionality. The organization did this by holding a roundtable event open to all undergraduate and graduate students to gather feedback about all aspects of LGBTQIA+ student life and experiences on and off campus. With this information, Elliot and QC moved forward to create steps and goals to better the concerns brought up in these roundtable discussions such as accessibility to SJE resources, among other things. Elliot was awarded the 2023 Lionel Cuffie Award for Activism and Excellence for his work in TransMissions and Queer Caucus.

Now living in Edison with his husband, roommates, and cat, he hopes to work in museum education and continue to advocate for not just LGBTQIA+ people but others who are underrepresented in the curriculum of museums and education spaces more broadly.

JANHERMAN VEENKER AWARD



Kristyn Scorsone

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS AWARDS

2023

Kristyn Scorsone (they/them) is a PhD candidate in the American Studies program at Rutgers University-Newark where they study LGBTQ+ history, African American women's history, urban history, and public history. They conduct interviews and are the volunteer manager for the Queer Newark Oral History Project, a community-directed initiative to capture the life stories of LGBTQ+ people in and of Newark, NJ.

They have a chapter in the forthcoming anthology: *Queer Newark: Stories of Resistance, Love, and Community* edited by Dr. Whitney Strub. It will be released in February 2024 and *Queer Newark* is available now for preorder through Rutgers University Press.

Kristyn Scorsone is a part-time lecturer and graduate fellow at Rutgers University-Newark where they have taught the following courses: History of Newark, African American History I, and Oral History: Storytelling as Resistance.

Their forthcoming dissertation, *A Way Out of No Way: The Labor and Activism of Black Queer and Transgender Women in Newark, New Jersey*, draws extensively on their research with the Queer Newark Oral History Project as they examine Black queer and transgender women's labor and related activism in Newark from the 1970s to the present. Since joining the project in 2015 they have conducted over two dozen oral histories, given numerous talks, oral history workshops, interviews, and presentations, designed and led Queer Newark walking tours, co-curated the 2017 traveling exhibit, *At Home in Newark: Stories from the Queer Newark Oral History Project*, and produced and hosted the Queer Newark podcast.

Their writing has appeared in *The Star-Ledger*, *The Public Historian*, *History@Work*, *Notches*, *Out History*, *Out in New Jersey*, and *Los Angeles Music Blog*.

You can check out *Kristyn Scorsone's Trans Sites of Power* Apple Guides Map highlighting places where transgender individuals stood in their power, resisted oppression, found joy, shared community knowledge, and formed radical coalitions. Their research also shaped Apple's Pride 2023 campaign, "Illuminating Us," by influencing how editorial and design teams across Apple Services honored Pride-led narratives globally on Apple TV, podcasts, music, maps, and their app store. Their work explored solidarity and allyship in the LGBTQIA+ community through a narrative framework based on their work as an oral historian with the Queer Newark Oral History Project.

DEAN JAMES CREDLE AWARD



Debra Holmes

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS AWARDS

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Debra Holmes is Jersey City born and raised along with her sister Robin raised by her mother Helen Holmes a single mother in Booker T. Washington Projects on Fremont Street. In that neighborhood she spent the finest years of her childhood. Everyone in the neighborhood accepted one another as family, many of which are still very close to this day.

In 1976, she graduated from Jersey City State Teacher College and became an Assistant Guidance Counselor at P.S. #22 which was the grammar school she graduated from. During summer school break she started working at The Skydive Cafe as Manager as Manager at One World Trade Center, New York, New York on the 44th floor. Her belief as a manager was powerful and proved to become the hallmark of her life. She believed she should be able to do any job that she had to manage and insisted on going to school to become a chef. Her bosses agreed and sent her to ICE Culinary School. In February of 1999, my first love, Adrienne Dixon passed away tragically from an asthma attack just as we were about to celebrate our 25th anniversary. She was my driving force and total inspiration to excel with every endeavor.

Debra started a business in July 2014 as the Head Chef and co-owner of the popular Cafe and Lounge Diamondz N Da Ruff in Newark, New Jersey. Her entire life she had a passion to work and build things. She decided to go to a trade school and attended New Jersey Trade & Mechanical Institute in West Orange, New Jersey majoring in Tool & Die Maker as well as Mechanical Engineering. After graduating, she was employed at Westinghouse Lighting/North Phillips Corporation in an apprenticeship program. 4 years of training later, she became one of the first women to graduate as a Journeyman, Machinist, Tool & Die Maker/ Mechanical Engineer.

After 10 years of working at Westinghouse she Pursued a job at Anheuser-Busch Corporation in Newark New Jersey as a machinist. She retired on August 1, 2019 after 32 years of service as the one and only female Machinist and Mechanical Tech- Planner in the history of Anheuser-Busch InBev in Newark, New Jersey. While working at Anheuser-Busch, the company had formed a mentoring program for some of the employees to be mentors at the 18th Ave. school in Newark. She got so involved in the mentoring program that she asked the Principal of the School and Anheuser -Busch to start an after-school study chess club. They both loved the idea and she became the Chess Coach over the program.

Retirement only made her restless so, she decided to turn her focus more on serving the community. In January of 2020, she went to work at Cura Rehabilitation Centers in Newark and Secaucus, New Jersey as a Chef. Presently working at NJPAC, she is also a Co-Event Planner of Just Being Us A Night of Elegance which pride itself on highlighting and honoring individuals and couples that have been agents of change in the LGBTQ community. She remains extremely grateful for the opportunity to have worked with and enhanced her gifts with her beautiful partner Beneva Travers, former business partners- Gloria Carter, Peggie Miller, Chrystal Atmosphere Turner, Deborah Glenn, her Goddaughter Chef Younnia Wells Blanchard & Ms. Theresa Randolph.

She owes her success and drive to the greatest gift of her life, her daughter Danielle .

ANGEL CLAUDIO AWARD



Esperanza Santos

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS AWARDS

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Esperanza Onoria Santos is a PhD student in American Studies at Rutgers University-Newark where she received the Rutgers Presidential Graduate Fellowship. Her focus is Transgender Studies, Latinx Culture, transnationalism, and History. She is a former McNair Scholar and has a history of leadership and extensive service. She received awards such as the Sonoma County "Community Role Model Award" and the Rutgers Newark "LGBTQ+ Leadership Award."

Esperanza's role as a Graduate Assistant for the Queer Newark Oral History Project included conducting oral history interviews, delivering presentations, and serving as outreach coordinator. She worked with the Santa Rosa Trans Latinas as a facilitator and organized a Trans Rights March. She was a core organizer for the "Trans Spiritual Retreat," a 3-day transnational spiritual retreat for trans people coming from at least 11 different "territories" including Florida, Illinois, Indiana, California, DC, Maryland, Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Canada, & England. She facilitated workshops on transphobia, religion/church, and how to work through resentment as well as problem-solving workshop about how to find a spiritual home in the face of transphobia.

As a Teaching Assistant for Latinx Literature and Culture, she developed lessons on Undocu-poetry to spotlight a poet from Central America, Gay, HIV+ Chicano who died in the early 90s, and the stories of Trans Latinas. She was selected to present at the Latinx Theory and Criticism Conference on "Feral Femmes: Luis Alfaro's Mojada and the power of the wild". She was also selected as the 2023 speaker for the LGBTIA Undergraduate Student Graduation.

Identifying a significant need, she became the unofficial, and beloved, mentor for "The Dreamers," the undocumented student club on campus. In this role, she helped them to establish a framework and success strategies for building the club and helped them to market what Dreamers offer to immigrant students. She mentors students on academic, personal, and financial matters to help them be successful.

This spring, in addition to serving as Outreach Coordinator for the Sawyer Seminar, "Natives and Nativists, Migrants and Immigrants in an American City," she also served as the AAUP-Newark Strike Team, Chair for Arts and Events.



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And a special thanks...

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for your support through donations, volunteering and your continued commitment and service to Circle of Friends!!