

Harlem's top restaurateurs Joe & Sheron Barnes feted by Harlem Business Alliance

By Audrey J. Bernard
Lifestyles & Society Editor

The Harlem Business Alliance, Inc. (HBA) which serves as an advocate for the preservation and retention of Harlem's business community celebrated its 38th annual gala on Thursday, December 8, 2011 in the Faculty Dining Hall at The City College Of New York on 138th Street & Convent Avenue. The event featured a lovely reception followed by dinner and an awards ceremony honoring outstanding community leaders. The gala event honored **Arthur Barnes**, National Jazz Museum (chairman award); **Michael Garner**, Metropolitan Transit Authority (government service award); **Carol Griffin**, Griffin Real Estate Group, (business person of the year award); **Joe & Sheron Barnes**, Mobay Uptown Restaurant, (entrepreneur of the year award); **Jackie Rowe Adams**, Harlem Mothers Save, (community service award). HBA was founded in 1980 by a group of prominent Harlem business leaders, and incorporated in 1990 as a class 402 501(c)(3) corporation. HBA has worked diligently to establish Harlem as an economically self-sustaining community. Over the years, HBA has developed cohesive public/private partnerships to assist existing and emerging businesses, community residents and youth. The high level of participation by HBA's board and members enables the non-profit organization to impact the quality of life in the Harlem community and to make the collective voice of our membership a valuable part of the decision making process at the local, state and federal levels. HBA's membership is diverse and representative of the most influential minority owned businesses in the New York City Metropolitan area. Major institutions and corporations operating in and around the Harlem community also share membership within HBA. Collaborative efforts with local and out-of-state organizations occur regularly. For thirty one years, HBA existed from the financial support of its membership and fundraising activities. **Walter J. Edwards**, CEO, Full Spectrum of NYC, LLC, is HBA's chairman of the board. (Photo Credit: Seitu Oronde)



Harlem Business Alliance board of directors and awardees



Harlem Business Alliance board of directors



Ronnie Davis, Londel Davis, Sr., Londel, Jr. with Joe Barnes



Walter Edwards, Regina Smith, Michael Garner



Regina Smith, Joe Barnes, Roy Barns, Sheron Barnes



Regina Smith, Jackie Rowe Adams, Walter Edwards