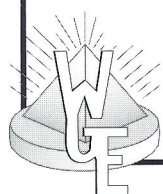





Miriam Ann Carr  
Posthumous Award





## Miriam Ann Carr, WGE

 n March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1907, at Smithfield in the parish of Westmoreland, Jamaica, Miriam Ann Lewis was born to the family of Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis. In 1920, at the age of thirteen years, she journeyed to Kingston to continue her education. During her stay there, she met and married Mr. Eric (Pablo) Carr. Miriam later gave birth to her four children, Mrs. Maria Lennon (deceased), Mrs. Dorothy Forsythe, Mr. Rudolph Carr and Mrs. Amy Allen.

Her profound love for God and extended love for her children and grandchildren played a very important part in her mothering of the "Central Kingston Community" in which she lived. Miriam Ann Carr, so fondly called "Grannie", was an advocate for children's rights, and a champion in the advancement of education in Central Kingston. Many children were given the opportunity to excel in both their education and civic responsibility under the extraordinary leadership of "Grannie". "Grannie" understood her duty to be a voice for the children. She encouraged parents to make education the priority in their children's "social lives" and God in their "spiritual lives".

"Grannie" lived in a community that had been transformed from wealth to poverty. Over the years, many of its, affluent members relocated making room for people from the rural parts, of Jamaica to take up residency. In their new found home in Central Kingston, life was not very easy, but "Grannie" gave them hope.

"Grannie" not only opened her heart to love and work for children. She was also known as a monetary contributor to the educational and every day needs of her community. Her home is still referred to as "House of Mercy", because from this residence the infinite presence of God's love emanated throughout Central Kingston and beyond.

"Grannie" understood that the fear of God, education, and integrity were major components for a successful life and a sure ticket out of the death and poverty that riddled her beloved community.

Miriam Ann Carr died in 1984 at the age of 77. One decade later M.A.C.A.D.E.M.Y. (Miriam Ann Carr Academy for the Development and Education In Minority Youth) was founded by her granddaughter, Rt. Reverend Hamilton-Gonzales to honor her. Under her watchful eyes from heaven, "Grannie" continues to inspire and care for the children. In loving memory of her remarkable compassion, tolerance, generosity and strong commitment to education we celebrate the life of a giant warrior who has left a legacy for this age and the next.

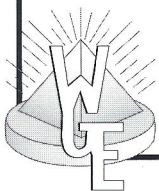
Although in her lifetime, Miriam only visited the United Nations once, because of the tremendous work done by the first Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to open its door for women, the halls of the delegates dinning room was graced by Mrs. Carr's elegant and stately portrait and greeted and inspired women from around the world at the Woman of Great Esteem Ceremony each year. Her portrait will now greet women at the historical Brooklyn Museum of Art for the "Emerald Awards" and on to the elegant Palm House for the reception.







Elizabeth Israel  
a.k.a. Ma Dampo





## Elizabeth Israel a.k.a. Ma Pampo

Dominicans have only recently become aware of Elizabeth Israel, a.k.a. Ma Pampo. At 128 years of age Ma Pampo is believed to be the world's oldest living human being. She is truly a phenomenon. I had the privilege of meeting Ma Pampo one hot, sunny afternoon at her home in Portsmouth, Dominica, W.I. Ma Pampo has lived for nearly a century in this tiny wooden house, purchased in the early 1900s for \$19, a considerable sum at the time for someone earning just pennies a day.

Ma Pampo has welcomed many visitors since she was first brought to the country's attention by DBS radio announcer Alex Bruno. On her kitchen table near her front door sits a guest book filled with the names of visitors from around the world, such as Princess Anne and Rt. Reverend Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales and her husband Mr. Laurence Gonzales, among the most prominent. Ma Pampo presented Princess Anne with a special bouquet of herbs used for making a bush tea with medicinal properties. Ma Pampo had assured her it would work wonders for her grandmother-the Queen Mum, herself age 101. During Rt. Reverend Hamilton-Gonzales' visit, Elizabeth Israel, fondly known as Ma Pampo, gave advice on the potency and healing properties of bay leaf, mint and other herbs.

Ma Pampo speaks clearly and forthrightly, although her memory of some events comes and goes. Once she gets warmed up, however, she has plenty to say, most of it bang on target. She prefers to speak patois, but can also handle English. She is blind and can no longer walk but is by no means as frail as might be expected. What struck me most were her hands. Her long tapering fingers were barely wrinkled, with not a trace of arthritis.

According to her baptismal records, she was born on January 27, 1875, when Alexander Graham Bell was still tinkering with an invention later to be known as the telephone and just forty-one years after slavery had been abolished in the British West Indies. Somewhat of a living miracle and worthy of serious scientific research into the basis for her longevity, Ma Pampo enjoys reciting the list of foods that have sustained her throughout her life. Convinced that callaloo, dasheen, dumpling, crab and fish have been major contributors to her continuing good health. The Mayor of Portsmouth, Julian Brewster, feels Ma Pampo's frequent use of the local hot-water springs for bathing had also benefited her health!

Remarkably, Ma Pampo has two neighbors who are also centenarians: Rose Peters, who is 119 years old, and Virginia, 102. Ma Pampo is cared for by Florestine Lewis, one of nine ladies who alternate the caretaking duties. Ma Pampo and Mrs Lewis are representative of many rural women in Dominica and elsewhere in the region who have been the





backbone of their families and their communities. They are characterised by their hard work, simple lives and strong faith. Ma Pampo is reportedly up and praying at five o'clock each morning.

People who have known her for many years describe her with a familiar Dominican expression: Ma Pampo not easy, you know. Eighty-one year-old Benjamin Ames, who lived on Picard Estate as a young boy, recalls Ma Pampo as a kind woman with a sharp tongue.

A faithful member of the DBS radio audience, Ma Pampo enjoys especially the programme done in patois, called *Esperians Kweole* (Creole Experience), and she never misses the news. She was in good form when the host, Felix Henderson, called her during a programme in recognition of her 126th birthday. Using the opportunity to speak to young people, Ma Pampo made it clear that she had not lost touch with the world. She discussed the issues of the day and warned young people against the dangers of drug use. Ma Pampo hopes to continue welcoming guests to her home and disarming them with her frank and humorous commentary for at least a few more years. She has said that she would like to make it to 130, adding that she knows such decisions are in the hands of the Lord.



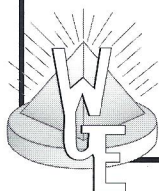
Deacon Laurence Gonzales and Ma Pampo



Woman of Great Esteem Rev. Alice Jacob and Ma Pampo.



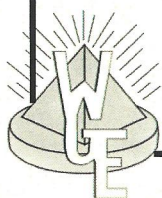
Rt. Rev. Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales and Ma Pampo







Betty Sanders Shabazz, WGE  
2008 Posthumous Award





# Betty Sanders Shabazz, WGE

May 28, 1934 - June 23, 1997

Dr. Betty Shabazz used to say, "You have to find the good and praise it." This simple phrase, handed down to her from her mother, became the cornerstone of a life lived powerfully, honorably and sincerely, and provided a winning formula that moved her through all of life's adversities. As the world knows, Dr. Betty Shabazz was the widow of Malcolm X (El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) and Director of Institutional Advancement and Public Relations and the cultural attache' at Medgar Evers College, The City University of New York.

Community activist, educator, scholar and widowed mother, Dr. Betty Shabazz was a hero for all single parents. She was the wife, supporter, solace, confidante and friend of Malcolm X. Pregnant with twins when Malcolm was brutally cut down; she unflinchingly assumed the arduous task of continuing his work; faced the responsibility of raising six children and did so with tremendous grace, skill, determination and commitment to social justice.

Born May 28, 1934, in Detroit Michigan, Betty Sanders was the only child of adoptive parents. She completed elementary school and high school in Detroit and went on to nursing school at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. She was attending a Tuskegee-affiliated nursing school in New York City when she was invited to hear the brilliant young minister Malcolm X at Harlem's Muslim Temple. They were married two years later. When she was 22, their first daughter Attallah, was born. Daughters Qubilah, Ilyasah and Camilah followed. She was pregnant with twins, Malaak and Malilah, when Malcolm was assassinated on February 21, 1965. She began a new life as a young widow and struggling single parent, determined to carry on her husband's work and raise their daughters.

For Dr. Betty Shabazz, education was always seen as a vehicle for personal change and transformation. She earned an R.N. degree from Brooklyn State Hospital and received a B.A. and an M.A. in Public Health, Education and Administration from Jersey City State College and a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Massachusetts. She was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on May 7, 1995, from Lincoln University.

Dr. Shabazz joined the faculty of Medgar Evers College in January 1976 and served as associate professor in the Division of Health Services until September 1980, after which she was appointed director of Institutional Advancement. In March 1984, she assumed the position of Director of Communications and Public Relations.

Pulitzer Prize winner Brian Lanker included Dr. Shabazz as one of the seventy-five women who changed our world and times in his book, *I Dream a World*. She was also one of three honorees who received the New York Urban League's top award at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Frederick Douglass Awards in 1980.

Dr. Shabazz served as a member of many social and community organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the NAACP, the American Education Research Association and the Annual Essence Magazine Special Tribute at Madison Square Garden. The Jackie Joyner-Kersey Community Foundation presented her the Theodore "Pop" Myles Leadership Award in November 5, 1994, in recognition of exemplary leadership through the spirit of desire, dedication and determination. Dr. Shabazz also received the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Drum Major for Justice Award. She was elected to the Lincoln University Board of Trustees in April 1997. Dr. Shabazz's extensive research on such topics as the sociological and economic conditions of minorities extended to Africa, the Caribbean and Europe. She held a variety of positions in both public and private organizations and participated on commissions and task forces at all levels of government-local and global.







# Hon. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, WGE

**The late Hon. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, WGE** was a native Clevelander. She attended Cleveland Public Schools and was a Major Work Program graduate. Congresswoman Tubbs Jones received both her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work and her Juris Doctorate Degree from Case Western Reserve University. She received honorary doctorates from David N. Meyers University, Notre Dame College, Central State University and Cleveland State University.

Her entire career was spent in public service. She was an Assistant County Prosecutor, a Trial Lawyer at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and was elected Judge for the Cleveland Municipal Court. Rep. Tubbs-Jones was the first African American woman to sit on the Common Pleas Court of the State of Ohio. She was the first African American woman to become the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, and the first African-American woman to represent Ohio in the United States Congress. She served five terms in Congress where she continued breaking ground. Among her many accomplishments, she was also the Whip for Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's Leadership Campaign, Co-Chair of the Democratic National Committee and the first African American woman to serve on the Ways & Means Committee. Rep. Tubbs-Jones was the Chairwoman for the Committee of Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics).



Cynthia Byer, WGE

Cynthia "Sis" Byer was born on July 17, 1918, she was the second of two children born to Evangeline Hinkson in Barbados. Cynthia attended the St. Jude's grammar school and later studied dressmaking with noted dressmaker, Mrs. King of Mt. Hill, St. George.

Cynthia was a tireless warrior for over fifty years in her pursuit of advancement and justice for all. Beginning in her little "rural" community in Barbados and then to the United States upon her migration in 1950. She always championed the cause of those in need and never ignored her commitment to her religion, being a Sunday School Teacher and Choir Member, both at the St. Jude's Church in Barbados and at the St. Georges Episcopal Church in New York, for many years.

Cynthia was a fearless and fearsome warrior who traveled around this country in the quest for human rights and dignity for her people. In Memphis she marched with Dr Martin Luther King Jr. for the rights of the Sanitation workers in that city. At the famous march on Washington, or the march for the rights of minorities to be hired as Artisans during the building of Downstate University Hospital here in Brooklyn, she appealed vigorously. Her demonstrations at the United Nations, demanded the end of apartheid in South Africa. All being done while she was a member and instrument of her beloved Union, DC37. Cynthia proudly served her Union in many capacities over forty years. Finally reaching the position of Chapter Chairperson of Local 420 at the Kings County Hospital from which she retired several years ago.

Many richly deserved accolades were awarded to her which she greatly treasured and appreciated. However, nothing warmed her heart more than the joy and contentment she exhibited when she would recall some of the many successes which had resulted from her extraordinary leadership and efforts. Cynthia lived a long, productive, rich and fertile life. She has left a magnificent legacy for the generation that follows. Let us all follow her lead, be the keepers of our brothers, and always speak out against injustice!