

2004 Honorees





Beverley Anderson-Manley

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Beverly Anderson-Manley is the former First Lady of Jamaica, and Jamaica's former representative to the United Nations Commission on the status of women and the OAS/CTM. She is a professor, transformational trainer, consultant on Third World Developmental Issues, as well as issues of communications and of gender. Anderson-Manley was the Vice President of the Third World Foundation, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

During her tenure as First Lady, Anderson-Manley was active in the politics of the Peoples' National Party in the 1970's and early 1980's. She traveled extensively overseas, often leading delegations (both for the Government and the party). These travels included trips across North America, Scandinavia, Africa, the former Soviet Union and Cuba (to name a few). Her travels were not limited to her role as First Lady. She also traveled to educate her audiences and students concerning her passion for gender and policies issues. Anderson-Manley continues to speak and lecture in many countries around the world.

Over the past fifteen years, she has toured many North American University campuses lecturing students and members of non-governmental organizations on those topics which were at the center of her heart and struggle. She has also been a visiting professor on many of these campuses including Harvard University, Cornell University and Governor's State University. In addition, in the fall of 1990, Anderson-Manley was the distinguished Carnegie International Fellow at Radcliffe/Harvard, where she carried out exhaustive research on gender issues.

In September of 1994, Anderson-Manley was the guest of the British Government for one week. During this time, Anderson-Manley, toured Universities and broadcasting houses in keeping with her interests – Gender and Communications. In mid-August, 1995, Anderson-Manley was a guest of the United Nations Development Program at the launching of the Sixth Human Development Report in Oslo, Norway. In September of the same year, she was a panelist on a series of debates, sponsored by the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization, during the Fourth International Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

This former First Lady of Jamaica, Anderson-Manley, continues to be a sought after speaker locally (in Jamaica); regionally in the Caribbean. Nationally, she worked tirelessly to promote developmental issues, including the rights of women and children. She has written numerous papers on Third World Political, Social and Economic issues as well as articles on Communications and Transformation. She is well known in Jamaica, the Caribbean and the Third World as an expert on Gender and Development with particular emphasis on Policy Issues.

Additionally, Anderson-Manley is co-producer and co-host for a weekday discussion program on radio in Jamaica – The Breakfast Club. In the two years of its existence, this program commands an audience that includes the top decision-makers in the country. A deeply spiritual person, Anderson-Manley is a Board member of the Universal Centre of Truth (Jamaica) and facilitates workshops for her spiritual organization as well as corporate and non-profit organizations. Beverly Anderson-Manley's hobbies include reading, acting, cooking, dancing, singing, listening to all types of music and mimicking - living life fully!





Dr. Michena Lubin Brooks

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Dr. Michena Lubin-Brooks was born in Les Cayes, Haiti. The third of seven children, she spent the early portions of her childhood in Les Cayes, attending its elementary and intermediate schools. Towards the end of her intermediate education she migrated to Chad, Africa, where she joined her father who was a Diplomat and Director of Secondary Education.

In late 1975, an inspiring Dr. Brooks moved to America to reside with her mother. Having completed her primary education, from 1977-1981, she followed her dream and chose to pursue a career in medicine at the Jersey City State College. She obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree and was among the first graduates to receive a Baccalaureate in Science from this institution. During her tenure at the Jersey City State College, she met and married her husband. Having completed her college education, she embarked upon her new journey of life as a wife and mother.

In 1982, Dr. Brooks became a mother giving birth to her daughter and first child, Myena L. Brooks, who in 2001 has given her a bundle of joy in the person of her beloved granddaughter Sade. She became a mother for the second time when in 1989 she gave birth to her son Thomas Brooks, Jr. A year after the birth of her daughter, she further pursued her graduate studies in Medicine at New York College of Podiatry Medicine. After completing her four year tenure, Dr. Brooks graduated with her medical degree in Podiatry and began to serve in the medical field as Dr. Michena L. Brooks, DPM.

Dr. Brooks' tremendous medical accomplishments would later catapult her to practice medicine at various clinics and hospitals, the most recent being the "Family Medical Practice Center". It is at this medical center that Dr. Brooks found her new home and made it the primary medical center from which she would practice medicine and serve the communities' medical needs. As if designed by faith, this woman of great strength and love of medicine would become a central source in the healing process of patients who attended the center.

Dr. Brooks' loving, caring and humbling spirit has earned her the recognition and admiration of both her peers and patients. Her many talents and abilities have enriched both the field of medicine and the community. Under the awesome and dynamic leadership of this talented woman, patients are given stellar healthcare as well as assistance to help them make decisions in the advancement of their medical needs.

Through perseverance and support from her family and friends, Dr. Michena Lubin-Brooks continues to practice medicine at the Family Medical Practice Center, she continues to stand as a role model and tower of strength for her children, Myena, Thomas Brooks Jr., and her granddaughter Sade. Along this wondrous journey, she has realized that one of her greatest life accomplishments is her ability to maintain the skills of balancing both being a mother and a doctor.





Joan D. Harvey-Butterfield

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Joan D. Harvey-Butterfield – Artist, Curator, Writer, Entrepreneur, Humanitarian, was born and raised on the island of Bermuda. During her teenage years, Joan left the Island to pursue her education, studying in New York, Boston, and Toronto. After completing her formal education, Joan settled just north of Toronto, where she now resides and practices her craft.

Early in Joan's career, she was drawn to the Seventeenth Century art form of Three Dimensional Decoupage, an art form that has allowed her to tap into her creative energy and freely apply and utilize her artistic skills and talents. Drawing on her heritage as a Black Bermudian woman, living in Canada, her aim has always been to produce images that exalt the virtues of the African Diaspora, thus providing the black community with aesthetics derived from its own heritage rather than European sources.

Joan truly believes that Art is a vehicle that aesthetically links our past to our future. She expresses this conviction by using her artistic talent to document and educate her people about their rich culture and heritage. She has been featured in numerous publications and appeared on many television and radio programs. Her compelling and revealing images can now be found in both private and corporate collections and on display in museums, universities, hospitals, libraries, and city halls throughout North America.

This renowned artist, over the years, has been afforded many avenues of opportunity to express her talents and convictions. She has been frequently commissioned by organizations, such as, the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, TRW of Fairfax, Virginia and Time Warner of New York to produce works of art for guest speakers and award presentations. Joan has been curator for exhibits for Essence Art, The City of Toronto, The Bank of Montreal, The Canadian Human Rights Commission, The Law Society of Canada, and the Jamaican Canadian Association.

As curator for the corporate sponsored Human Rights Through Art II Exhibit," Joan's thrust has been to emphasize the importance of human rights in the Toronto community, to promote not only Black History Month and images that relate to the struggle, but to foster a more tolerant and educated public.

In 1988, she signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Essence Art, a division of Essence Magazine. In September of 2000, her Gallery of Art launched its Pathway to Success Posters to School" project. With the assistance of corporate sponsors, the Gallery has been able to produce and distribute to schools in select areas, prints, and posters that incorporate images of our black children.

In 2001, Joan was invited to participate with many Artists from around the world to display her unique paper creations in "The Paper Trail", at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre. This event was designed to educate the public on the timeless beauty of paper art. At this art show her paper art display received an outstanding review from the art community.

With all that she has accomplished, Joan's crowning achievements are, maintaining a loving relationship with her husband Sheridan, raising three wonderful, progressive children, and being blessed with three beautiful grandchildren.





The Honorable Yvette Diane Clarke

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Yvette Diane Clarke was elected to the New York City Council in 2001 as the representative for the 40th District in Brooklyn. She succeeded her pioneering mother, the former City Councilmember, Una S.T. Clarke. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Ms. Clarke attended public schools in the borough that gave her the opportunity to develop lasting friendships with other children from Central Brooklyn's ethnically diverse neighborhoods and communities.

She has emerged as a voice of calm reason and a true consensus leader at the City Council. Councilmember Clarke has distinguished herself as a strong negotiator who always seeks the interests of her district and its residents. She has also stood up against any practices that she believes are unfair, that unjustly targets disadvantaged communities across the city, and was one of the most vocal opponents against the closure of fire houses that she felt placed at-risk communities in jeopardy.

A champion of women's rights who favors involving youths in the decision-making process, Ms. Clarke has instituted an HIV/AIDS Task Force in her district that focuses on combating the negative impact of this disease among residents. Recognizing other pressing problems in her district, she has also put in place a Sanitation Task Force, a Youth Task Force and she has sought to involve the clergy in all her efforts at community empowerment by organizing them into an Ad Hoc Clergy Committee.

Councilmember Clarke emerged from her public school days as a popular honor student, earning a scholarship to Oberlin College in Ohio. Bright, articulate and hardworking, Ms. Clarke soon won a Congressional internship in 1983 while still attending college. Before being elected to the 40th City Council District in Brooklyn, Ms. Clarke was Director of Business Development for the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation. As the first Director of the Bronx portion of the New York City Empowerment Zone, she was on the frontline of the rebuilding process, especially in the South Bronx.

Ms. Clarke brings her formidable, organizational, managerial, all-round legislative and business skills to the job. She has a consultative, but firm and decisive leadership style that is supplemented by a unique ability to listen.

The Honorable Yvette Diane Clarke is a passionate, understanding leader whose faith and confidence in God keeps her humble and full of love. Her affection is expressed in her ability to love beyond the call of duty and to have this love manifested by her caring character for the needs of those who are most vulnerable in her community.





Doreth "Dee" Campbell Flowers, RN, CMW, CCM

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Doreth "Dee" Campbell Flowers was born in Jamaica, West Indies and migrated in 1978, to Hartford, Connecticut, to join her family. While growing up in Jamaica, Ms. Flowers attended Old Harbor Bay Elementary School. She continued her education at St. Catherine High School, in Spanish Town. Upon graduation from St. Catherine High School, Ms. Flowers was awarded a full scholarship to Portsmouth Group School of Nursing, in Portsmouth, England. Ms. Flowers promptly proceeded through her studies to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and Certificate in Midwifery. She credits her achievements, to Jah Almighty, the Giver of her strength and character. Her desire to serve and make a difference in the life of others has emerged as the solid foundation that has carried her to greater heights beyond her imagination.

As a Health Care Professional for over twenty five years, Ms. Flowers has served in many capacities in the medical field in England, Jamaica and the United States. While in the United States, she embarked on a new path as a medical nurse case manager with Aetna Life and Casualty. After extensive training and certification in insurance, she served six years as manager of the State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Medical Managed Care Program. Her role was assisting in the creation of programs that return injured workers safely to the work environment and providing cultural awareness to the program. Ms. Flowers later created and implemented a workers' compensation medical managed care program for several private employers in Connecticut. She is presently employed as a Medical Quality Assurance Consultant "MQAC" at the Hartford Financial Services Group. In her position as MQAC, this dynamic Caribbean native is one of two individuals with administrative responsibilities for medical quality assurance within the Hartford area and nationwide.

Ms. Flowers is a former president of The West Indian Social Club of Hartford. During her tenure, she established an annual scholarship program for young men; she developed a senior outreach program; established the first Greater Hartford Lions Club; she collaborated with the Connecticut Historical Society and the West Indian Foundation on the documentation of the history and contribution of West Indians in Greater Hartford and in the structural enhancement of the West Indian Foundation facilities.

Ms. Flowers presently serves as the Deputy Chair to the City of Hartford Parking Authority. She is the first Caribbean Woman to be appointed as Commissioner to this newly created governing board. In addition, she serves as a Board member to the City of Hartford Cultural Awareness, a program that promotes the diversity and inclusion of all communities for a better Hartford. In her spare time, Ms. Flowers contributes articles to WKND Radio 1480 "Spotlight Magazine", a news publication in the City of Hartford.

Ms. Flowers is a member of St. Monica's Episcopal Church in Hartford, Queen of Sheba Chapter 3, New England Mechanics Western Division and Daughters of the Kings. Her philosophy is, "Prayer and work conquers all".





Honorable Marcia Linneth Griffiths, O.D.
The Empress of Reggae Music
40 Years Strong

The Honorable Marcia Linneth Griffiths, O.D.

The longest, hardest and most consistently working artist in the history of the Jamaican Music Industry is the Empress of Reggae music, the most Honorable Marcia Linneth Griffiths, O.D., first Lady of Songs, Female Vocalist Supreme.

Marcia Lyneth Griffiths was born on November 23, 1949, to Joseph and Beatrice Griffiths in a poor section of West Kingston, despite her humble beginnings, Ms. Griffiths would successfully, by means of her destiny, become the Empress of Reggae Music. As a teenager she attended Kingston Senior School and performed in many of her school concerts and plays. She was a zealous member of her church choir where she used her voice, gifts and talent to exuberate her love for God, Music and Community.

At the tender age of fifteen, her singing debut began at the Carib Theater, in Kingston, where she performed at a talent show sponsored by Byron Lee and the Dragonaires. Her stellar performance resulted in a phenomenal response of applaud from the audience. The attention Ms. Griffiths received after this auspicious debut was overwhelming and was instrumental in her first television performance at the studio of Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation. For this teenager, her title, "First Queen, Matriarch of Reggae Music", was earned and later led to her most befitting royal, prestigious, and respectful title of "Reggae Empress".

Marcia Griffiths has been performing and recording as a top class artist for over four decades and is still going strong. She started singing professionally as a vocalist in 1964, for Byron Lee and the Dragonaires band. Her recording years started soon after, at "Coxsone Dodd - Studio One" where she recorded her first solo hit "Feel Like Jumping". It was while recording that hit at "Studio One" that Marcia teamed up with Bob Andy on "Really Together", the first of many duets that the two would record. In her musical career, she has hit high points internationally as a soloist and as a duo with Bob Andy, as Bob and Marcia.

Ten years after entering the music business, Marcia united with Judy Mowatt and Rita Marley to form the "I Threes" as an important part of the Bob Marley entourage. Ms. Griffiths has toured the world as a member of the "I Threes" with Bob Marley and the Wailers.

Following her duet success with Bob Andy and her accomplishments with the "I Threes", she went solo again recording many hit singles. As a soloist, Ms. Griffiths soared the Billboard charts with her "Electric Boogie Song" and created a world class dance, "The Electric Slide". In 1982, this monster hit, "Electric Boogie", was released and soared to the "number one spot" on the Jamaican charts. The "Electric Boogie" was instrumental in Ms. Griffiths international recognition as a solo artist.

Ms. Griffiths new dance, became popular all over the United States and the world. The song and dance has been featured on the Oprah Winfrey and Phil Donahue shows. The video has been aired many times on the Black Entertainment Television (BET) and other nationwide and worldwide music networks.

The millennium dawns with Marcia Lyneth Griffiths, O.D., being the most influential female artist in Jamaican Pop Music, as she continues her mission to mesmerize the world with her songs.





Eunice Lowe

Eunice Lowe



Eunice Raynor a native member of Southampton, Bermuda. She was joined in holy matrimony to Vernon Ivan Thomas Fitzgerald Lowe on April 8, 1948. They share four children (Michael, Vernon Jr., Joy and Robert) as well as seven grandchildren (Tracey-deceased, Amy-deceased, Michael, Jr., Lindsay, Alana, Bryon, Whitney, Jared and Michael).

The Lowe family, Eunice and Vernon, moved to the United States in 1956 and settled in Hempstead, New York. At Mercy Hospital, Eunice took advantage of the Outreach Program on Nursing and worked there for many years; she also worked at Syosset Community Hospital in the Newborn Nursery until its closing in 1980. She then worked at North Shore University Hospital Schooling of Nursing, Plainview, New York, in its Pediatric Oncology Department. She found her job very rewarding and fulfilling while working at this facility and over the years she received four service awards.

Eunice is a member of Mt. Moriah A.M.E. Church in Queens, New York, where her youngest son, Reverend Robert Lowe, serves as Senior Pastor. She is also a life member of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

After retiring from North Shore University Hospital Schooling, Eunice continued to work with the community. As part of her Christian upbringing, Eunice continued to cheer and lift spirits of the terminally ill, and through her life and work demonstrated the love of Jesus. She supervises the women on the Jamaica-Long Island District, where her husband of fifty-five years, serves as Presiding Elder. She also finds the time, energy and willingness to give support and love to those with whom she comes in contact.

Sister Eunice, as she is affectionately called by the members of the A.M.E. Ministers' Wives, Widows and Spouses Alliance, and Mother Lowe by others, is a virtuous woman, who diligently strives to let her light shine for the glory of God.





Sharon A. Myrie

Sharon A. Myrie



Sharon A. Myrie was born in England, of Jamaican parentage, and migrated to the United States of America where she pursued her educational studies. After her tenure at Ithaca College she was the recipient of a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Ms. Myrie later attended the George Washington University National Law Center and was awarded a

J.D.

Sharon Myrie is the Vice President for Education at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a position she assumed early in February 2000. She is responsible for planning and implementing educational programs serving over 100,000 youths, adults and community organizations through a wide range of program initiatives. One of her most recent initiatives was working with Prospect Park Alliance and the Department of Education to develop the first public high school in Brooklyn, which focuses on the environment. In September 2003, under the outstanding leadership of Ms. Myrie the Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment (BASE) was launched and is dedicated to Science, Environmental Studies and Urban Ecology.

Prior to joining Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Ms. Myrie served as Associate Executive Director for Programs at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, a community-based agency located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan serving children, youth, and older adults. She has also served as Deputy Director/General Counsel in the Mayor's Office on Homelessness and SRO Housing.

Ms. Myrie was appointed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to serve as a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the judiciary, which is responsible for recommending and screening judicial candidates for the Criminal Court in New York City. She has also been a member of the Housing Court Advisory Council that recommends judicial candidate reappointments for Housing Court to the Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the New York Women's Foundation that identifies and provides grants and support to neighborhood programs benefiting women and girls in New York City.

Sharon Myrie currently resides in Flatbush, Brooklyn along with her husband, Jose Maldonado and their four-year old son, Alejandro.





The Honorable Cynthia A. Pratt, JP, MP
Deputy Prime Minister of the Bahamas
Award of Excellence

The Honorable Cynthia A. Pratt, JP, MP

The Honorable Cynthia Alexandria Pratt was born to the marital union of Herman and Rose Moxey of Mangrove Cay, Andros and The Bluff, Eleuthera respectively. She received her early and secondary education in the Bahamian Public School System and later attended the Princess Margaret Hospital's School of Nursing, and eventually graduated as a Trained Nurse.

Persistent in her ambition for academic excellence, she enrolled in Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she completed her course of studies obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Education, with a minor in Sociology. She graduated Summa Cume Laude (with Honors) in 1983, and was conferred with an Honorary Doctor's Degree (Doctor of Humane Letters) by that school in February, 1995. She is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Honour Society and the Alpha Kappa Mu Honour Society. As a recruiter for Saint Augustine's College, she has assisted hundreds of Bahamian students in receiving a tertiary education at that institution.

Mrs. Pratt served the Bahamas Government for thirty four (34) years as a nurse and latterly as a teacher. She served as a Department Head at C.C. Sweeting Secondary School and as part-time Lecturer and Assistant Director of Student Activities at the College of The Bahamas. She is also an affiliate of Zonta Living Legend 2000.

In 1997, she was chosen as the Member of Parliament for the Saint Cecelia Constituency, thereby becoming the second female Progressive Liberal Party Candidate to be elected to the House of Assembly. She represented The Bahamas in London, Scotland, Wales and Trinidad and Tobago. She was also a representative for Women in Leadership which was sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in Brazil.

She was elected the first female Progressive Liberal Party Leader in 1998 and served as the Progressive Liberal Party's Whip in Parliament from 1997-2002, while the party was in official opposition. Mrs. Pratt was re-elected to the Parliament for a second time by the people of the St. Cecelia Constituency. She is also a Justice of the Peace for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Several events have been established in her honour, including, the "Mother" Pratt Foundation, The "Mother" Pratt Basketball Classic and the "Mother" Pratt Annual Fun/Run/Walk, the latter sponsored by the College of The Bahamas. She serves as Advisor for Teen Challenge Bahamas. She is also the founder of the Coconut Community Club (for males) and the St. Cecelia Community Club (for females) and founding member of the Committee for a Better Bahamas.

A Born again Christian and ordained Minister, Mrs. Pratt attends The Prayer and Praise Assembly Church, located on Ragged Island Street. She serves as the Superintendent of the Sunday School. She is married to Mr. Joseph Pratt, and they are the proud parents of five children, four boys and a daughter.





Bev Smith

Bev Smith

Bev Smith began her television and radio career in 1971 when she was named Pittsburgh's first African American Consumer Affairs Investigative Reporter for WPXI Television, an NBC affiliate. While a reporter, she received numerous awards for consumer investigation, including the 1980 and 1989 Pennsylvania Social Security Outstanding Journalist Award, an award that had never before been presented to any journalist and has not been given to a journalist since then. Bev wrote a weekly consumer advice column, called "Bev Sez" for the Pittsburgh Courier, the nation's oldest African American newspaper.

In 1975, she was named News and Public Affairs Director for the Sheridan Broadcasting Company (now known as American Urban Radio Network). Bev hosted the television talk show, "Vibrations", for KDKA TV. She also hosted a lively talk show on Sheridan's Flagship station, WAMO. Since then, Bev Smith has taken her "fire brand" style of talk shows to KDKA and WTAE Radio in Pittsburgh; WGBS (now WNWJ) in Miami; WKIS in Orlando; and WRC in Washington. Bev served as the host of a one-hour talk show, "Our Voices," which was seen nationally on Black Entertainment Television and in 40 countries outside the United States.

In addition to her regular radio and television work, Bev has made appearances on ABC's "Good Morning America", NBC's "Today Show", and CNN's "Crier and Company" and "Talk Back" and "Larry King Live" and "Sonja Live". Bev can be seen regularly on PBS shows, such as "To The Contrary" and "This Week in America".

Never afraid to tackle issues, she has lived with the homeless, walked the streets investigating prostitutes, raised money for babies with AIDS and talked with inmates on death row. She has interviewed personalities such as Bill Cosby, Vice President Al Gore, Pearl Bailey, Steve Allen, Sammy Davis, Jr. and a host of guests, many of whom she now refers to as her "special friends."

Over the past twenty years, Bev has received nearly three hundred (300) awards, citations and trophies for her contributions on radio and television. Among them are: The 1981 Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Woman of the Year Award, the 1984 Miami University Outstanding Journalist Award, and the 1990 Radio Air Crystal Award for her live radio town meeting, "Children Killing Children over Drugs." Bev Smith was named Woman of the Year and was the recipient of the 1990 Best Journalist Award from the Arab-American League and in 1996 received the Best Journalism Award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women.

She is also a Kellogg Foundation recipient and was voted 1998's, "Great Woman of Style" by Ashley Stuart Company. She enjoys traveling, spending time with her daughter, Heather, and granddaughter, Gabrielle. She dedicates her time to the Philippine-American Foundation Project for Women in the Working Community and is currently focusing on writing two books: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Success and Israel in Black and White. Combining her knowledge and expertise with her passionate spirit, Bev is a highly sought after public speaker and multi-cultural diversity trainer.

Bev Smith is heard daily throughout the United States on American Urban Radio Networks via her daily commentary, "Straight Up" and "The Bev Smith Show," the only national talk show targeted to a Black audience.

