

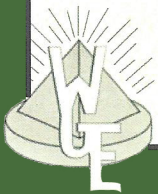
2006

Woman of Great Esteem
Emerald Awards
Honorees





Lorraine L. Berry, WGE
Senate President



Senate President Lorraine L. Berry, WGE

Senator Berry is a graduate of the St. Peter and Paul High School, and attended the Business Administration Program at the University of the Virgin Islands. The eldest of nine children, Lorraine Berry was born on November 15, 1949 to Joseph Ledee of Sandy Point, St. Kitts and Emelda Ledee of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Senator Berry currently resides in the Northside of the Virgin Islands with her husband Richard, proprietor of Berry's Refrigeration and Air-conditioning. She is a proud parent of her daughter Roxanne, a graduate of the Master's Program at Smith College, School of Social Work, and her son Kurt, a marketing graduate of Central Florida University.

Senate President Lorraine L. Berry is serving her 12th consecutive term in the Legislature of the Virgin Islands and as President; she is serving her second term in the 22nd Legislature. She is currently the vice chairman of the Committee on Public Safety, Homeland Security and Justice; she serves as a member of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, and on the Committee of Health, Hospitals and Human Services.

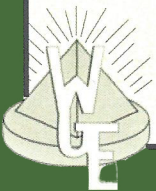
Among her numerous outstanding accomplishments, Senator Berry is a member of the League of Women Voters; the Business and Professional Women's Club; the American Lung Association of the Virgin Islands; the Democratic Territorial Committee; President of VIDAC (Virgin Islanders for Democratic Action Club); and Founder of the Northside Civic Organization and was the catalyst in the establishment of the Beacon Schools Program in the Virgin Islands. Senator Berry has earned many community and governmental awards including the Hope Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the Educational Teddy Award, to name a few.

Senator Berry continues to be very active in community issues, which among many includes an Annual Youth Symposium and Women's Conference. In 1997, she was named "Person of the Year" by the Rotary Club II of St. Thomas. In 2005, she was the recipient of the Wilbur "Bill" LaMotta Award from the St. Thomas/St. John Chamber of Commerce; and was honored by the Montserrat Association of the Virgin Islands for her outstanding community contributions.





Hon. Paula Cox, JP, MP, WGE



Hon. Paula Cox, JP, MP, WGE

Minister Paula Ann Cox, JP, MP is the PLP MP for Constituency 14 – Devonshire North West. Minister Cox was first elected to Parliament as a Devonshire North MP, in a bye-election in October 1996. This followed the death of the former Opposition Leader, L. Frederick Wade, JP, MP on August 13, 1996. Currently, Minister Cox is the Minister of Finance. She has had varied experience in Government having held a number of portfolios. She has served in a number of Cabinet portfolios. Under the Premiership of the Honorable Jennifer Smith, JP, MP, now Dame Jennifer Smith, Minister Paula Cox was appointed as the first PLP Minister of Labour, Home Affairs and Public Safety. She and her father, the late C. Eugene Cox, JP, MP were unique as both were Ministers in the first PLP administration and the only serving father-daughter duo.

Minister Cox has gained respect across party lines for her brilliance as an articulate young lawyer and administrator. While the Minister of Labour, Home Affairs and Public Safety, she was named in the Bermudians' Best of Bermuda Gold annual listing as the most effective politician for 2001. She was appointed Minister of Education and Development on November 1, 2001. Following the July 2003 General Election, Ms. Cox was appointed as Attorney-General and Minister of Education. She served in this dual portfolio until January 2004. In 2003, she was again cited in the Bermudian's Best of Bermuda Gold's annual listing as the most effective politician.

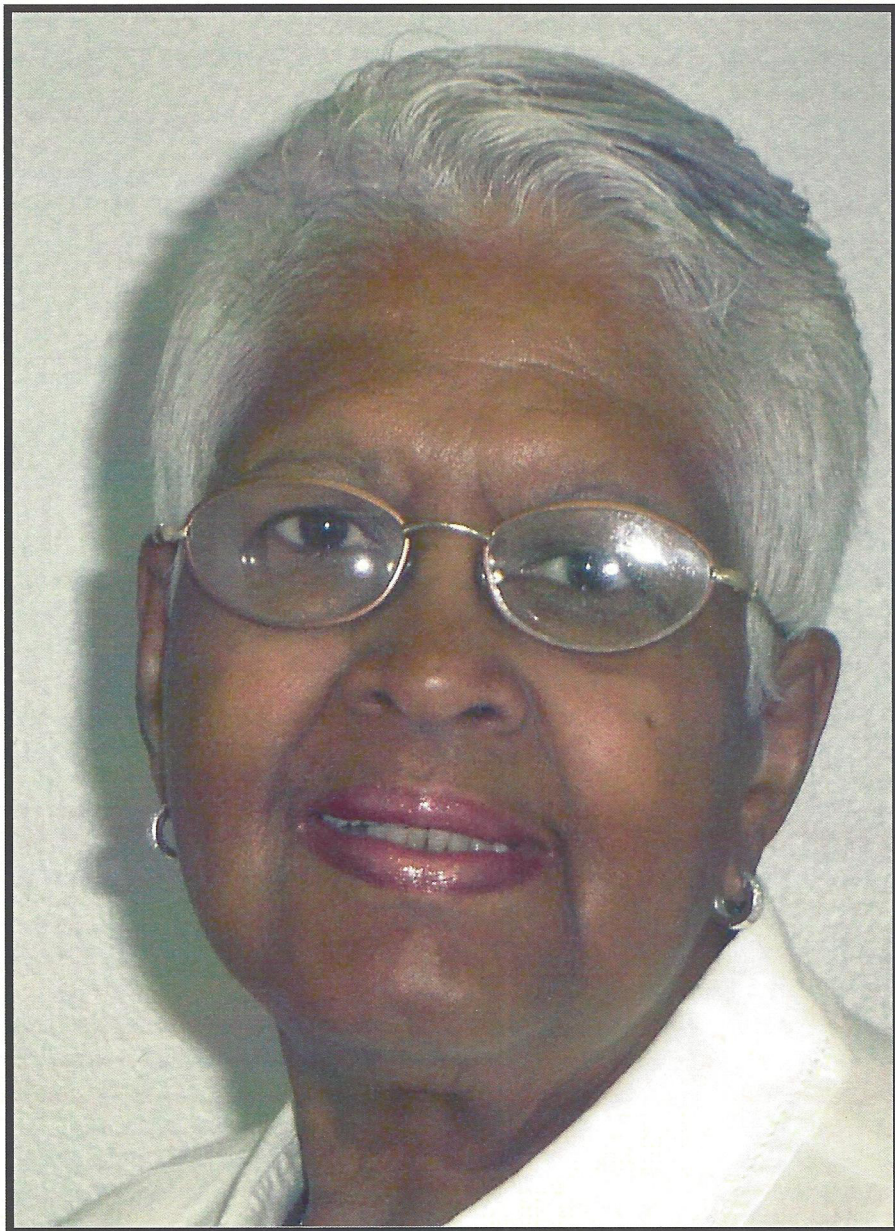
In 2003, while Minister Cox was currently serving as the Attorney-General and Minister of Education and Development, Wheelock College invited Minister Paula Cox to accept an honorary doctorate in Education. Minister Cox received this honorary degree at the May 2004 Wheelock Commencement exercise. Minister Cox was awarded the Honorary Doctorate in Education. In January 2004, after the death of her father, the former Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, the late C Eugene Cox, CBE, JP MP, Minister Paula Cox was appointed the Minister of Finance.

In her professional life Minister Cox, as a lawyer, is Corporate Counsel at ACE Limited. She previously worked as Vice President and Senior Legal Counsel of Global Funds Services at The Bank of Bermuda Limited. This impeccable background, allows her to give the PLP Government and Party a strong voice in international financial matters, particularly with her expertise in the field of international law and international business organization.

Minister Paula Cox for many years was one of the closest aides of the late Opposition Leader, Hon. L. Frederick Wade. She was his first Shadow Parliamentary Secretary, and at the same time the PLP's Public Relations Officer. Ms. Cox earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from McGill University, a post-graduate Diploma in International Law from the University of Manchester, England and is a member of the Bermuda Bar, having trained in the United Kingdom as a Solicitor.

Minister Cox is the only daughter of retired educator Mrs. F. Alinda Cox. She is married to a businessman from the Cameroon's, Mr. Germain Nkeuleu and she has two brothers, Jeremy Cox, the Supervisor of Insurance at the Bermuda Monetary Authority - the independent regulator and Robert Cox, an electrical engineer, who currently works in the United States.





Helen Dorcas Joy Foster, WGE



Helen Dorcas Joy Foster, WGE

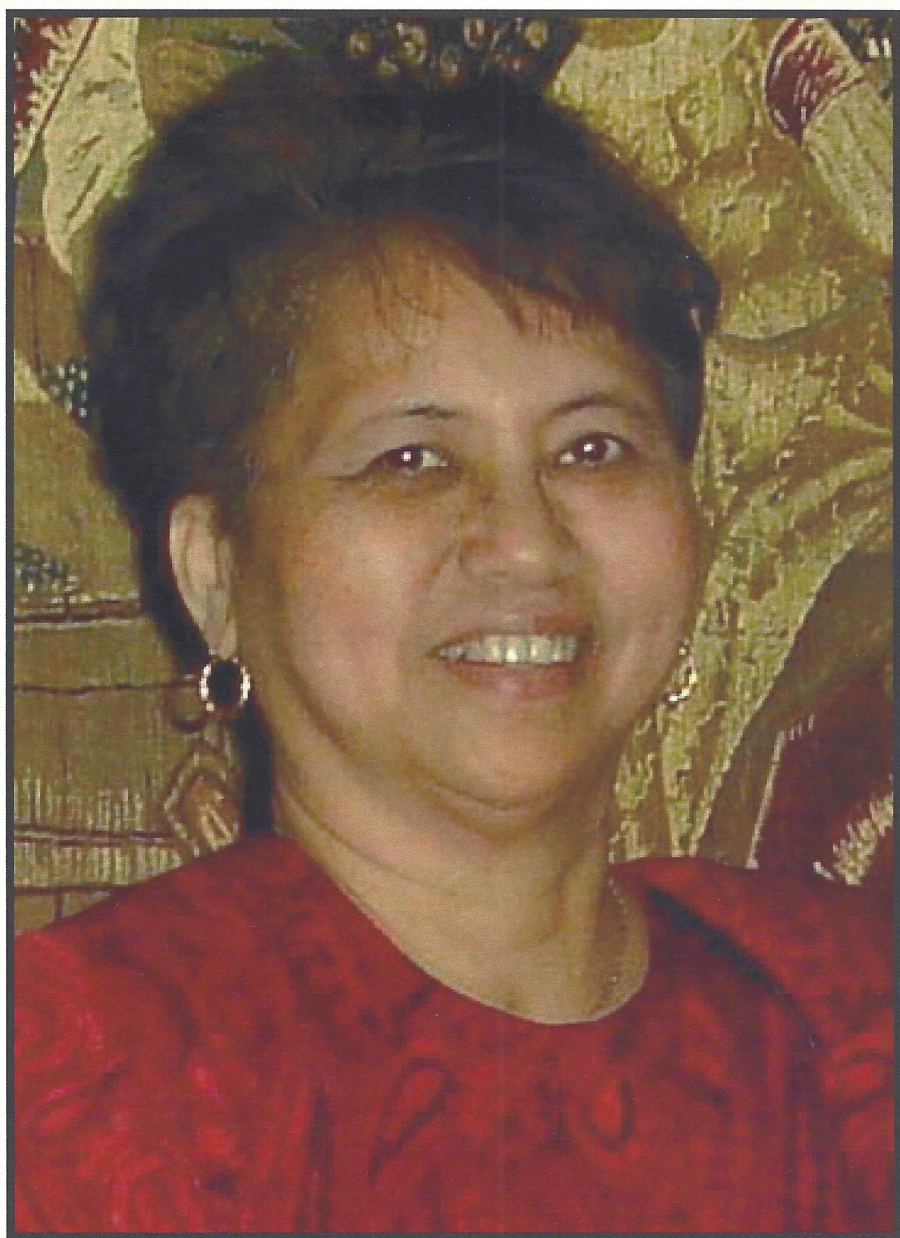
*H*elen Dorcas Joy Foster, nee Somersall, was born in the island of Bermuda where she attended elementary school and secondary school -The Berkeley Institute. She was awarded the Bermuda Scholarship for Girls while she was attending Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. After she graduated from Queen's University, she returned to Bermuda where she taught Latin, Geography and Religious Knowledge at The Berkeley Institute. In 1956, she married the Reverend Wendell Foster, the pastor of Vernon Temple AME Church and later, St. Paul's AME Church. To that union was born two daughters, Rebekah and Helen Diane Foster.

Mrs. Foster continued her education in New York City obtaining a M.A. in Early Childhood from Hunter College and a M.Sc. in Library Science from Queens College. She left the classroom to become a Staff Developer in 1978. Subsequently, she was granted a Professional Diploma in Administration and Supervision from Hunter College. Continuing her quest for certification at the highest level in her field, she passed the NYC Board of Examiners exam and received both her Assistant Principal and Principal's licenses. She was appointed Principal of P863 in 1986 where she remained until her retirement in 1993.

Mrs. Foster is a member of Christ Church, United Church of Christ where her husband is the Senior Minister. She is a member of the Senior Choir, Co-teacher of the Adult Bible Class as well as a member of the Finance Committee. At times, she is the substitute organist. Aside from her church duties, she finds time to be an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Tau Omega Chapter where she serves as Protocol Chair. Mrs. Foster is a member of the Board of Trustees for St. Barnabas Hospital, Bronx, NY where she serves on the Nominations, Development and Community Relations Committees. She is Vice President of the Board of Trustees of St. Barnabas Nursing Home.

Above all, Mrs. Foster is proud to be the wife of the Reverend Wendell Foster for 50 years and the mother of Rebekah Foster, CEO and owner of Ujima Sound Productions, Ltd, and Ujima Entertainment Services; and, the Honorable Helen Diane Foster NYC Council Member, of the 16th Councilmanic District, Bronx, NY.





Jeanette Doreen Hosang, WGE



Jeanette Doreen Hosang, WGE

Jeanette Doreen Hosang, neé Lee Fatt, was born in Richmond, in the Parish of St. Mary, Jamaica to the late Oscar and Carmen Lee Fatt. She was one of eight siblings, two of whom are deceased. Jeanette grew up in St. Catherine and attended St. Catherine High School. After graduation, she attended Kingston Commercial School where she mastered all aspects of Accounting and Pitman's Shorthand. After graduation from Kingston Commercial, Jeanette worked at British American Insurance Company for eight years as the Company's Bookkeeper. In 1970, she made a permanent transition to New York. She enrolled at Monroe Business Institute in the Bronx where she studied computer programming and accounting. She graduated from Monroe after two years and went on to Pace University in Manhattan. In 1974 Jeanette received an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Pace University and then in 1978 she received a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Armed with her R.N., B.Sc., Jeanette Lee Fatt worked in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at North Central Hospital in the Bronx.

Vincent Hosang and Jeanette Lee Fatt married in 1976 and soon started a family. They have two sons and two daughters, Damian, Sabrina, Simone and Bryan. Vincent and Jeanette Hosang opened Kingsbridge Delight, their first store in February 1978 and sold chicken, patties and Jamaican food. At that time the other food outlets all sold chicken dishes. They realized that Jamaican patties and Jamaican dishes were in great demand; especially, since their venue was near to Montefiore Hospital. They focused on those products and business grew so rapidly that after five years they needed a larger store. Sunshine Bakery on Dyre Avenue in the Bronx was on the market. In 1980, the Hosangs bought it and changed the name to Dyre Avenue Bakery which eventually became their Flagship Store and remains so until today. In 1987, property was acquired in Mount Vernon for Royal Caribbean Bakery (RCB) which is USDA-approved. All the products were baked at RCB until 1993 when they bought what is now the largest Jamaican-owned baking plant in North America, Caribbean Food Delights in Tappan, New York.

At Royal Caribbean Bakery, Jeanette Hosang is the President. She has expanded the pastry line by making many forgotten Jamaican favorites. Jeanette also runs a retail outlet at RCB on the retail level and Jamaican dishes are cooked and sold. Each year she participates in preparing dishes for the athletes who come up annually for the Penn Relays. Jeanette says her hobbies are collecting cookbooks and playing tennis. In her quiet, unassuming manner, Jeanette Hosang, Nurse, President, Mother, Wife says, "My motto is; I always try to be good at whatever I do."





Hon. Lindiwe Michelle Maseko, MPL, WGE



The Hon. Lindiwe Michelle Maseko, MPL, WGE

The Honorable Lindiwe Michelle Maseko was born on 2nd March 1958 in South Africa. She was first exposed to politics during the Soweto uprising in 1976 while a student at Orlando High School. She holds diplomas in Project Management, International Relations as well as Diplomatic Practice from both The Netherlands and Germany.

She was a banker for 10 years before serving in the organization of the African National Congress (ANC) and African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) at Branch, Sub-region, Region, Province and National levels. When the African National Congress (ANC) was liberated, she volunteered to build structures in the country.

She was first elected to the Gauteng Provincial Legislature in 1994 as a Member of Parliament serving as a Whip and a Chairperson of several committees. In 1999, she was elected as a Deputy Speaker and in 2004 as a Chairperson of Chairpersons whilst a presiding officer.

The Honorable Ms. Maseko has participated in the activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association since 1995. She has been the Gauteng Branch Chairperson and a member of the Africa Regional Executive. In 2003, in Bangladesh, she was elected the Interim Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and in 2004 was elected the First Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians in Canada. She has observed Parliamentary and presidential elections in Mozambique, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

She is presently the Provincial Treasurer of the ANC in Gauteng and a member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANCWL also working in one of the rural areas towards women awareness of their rights and involvement in politics. She is also the Chairperson of the Political Office Bearers Pension Fund in South Africa.

She sees herself as the implementer or an overseer of decisions taken by heads of Governments on issues relating to the contribution of improving the lives and empowerment of women. She also does this by conducting workshops on the role of women in politics and decision making by getting women together to share experiences and learn from each other.

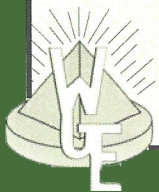
The Honorable Ms. Maseko sees herself as a Gender Champion who knows from experience that when we have a strong leadership that raises the issues, and can get parliaments, governments and communities to commit to addressing these issues then we are improving the lives of women and that of the whole community.

The Honorable Ms. Maseko has a twenty nine year old daughter and has also adopted two others twenty eight and fifteen years respectively. She spends her leisure time playing golf, reading and watching sports on television.





Hon. Marie Jocelyne Michel, M.Sc., WGE



Hon. Marie Jocelyne Michel, M.Sc., WGE

Marie Jocelyne Michel was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, the middle child of Mr. Agard Michel and Anne Marie Montes Michel. She commenced her tremendous education at the age of two years old. She attended elementary school at Saint-Joseph de Cluny, and later started the second half of her schooling at a prestigious institution in Port-au-Prince, where she received her Baccalaureate. In 1971, Jocelyne left Haiti for the United States to meet her mother who had been living there for two years. She stayed a little over a year, and then migrated to Switzerland. She attended Ecole Sociale (School of Social Studies) for four years where she received her license as an educator. Four more years were spent studying in the fields of Psychology and Educational Sciences. With that foundation, Jocelyne began her career dealing with the mental health of children and their families at The Children's Hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Jocelyne created a recreation center for the hospitalized children. In this center, these children were not only exposed to innovative games and theater, but also a new medium to communicate their feelings. After 15 years at The Children's Hospital, Jocelyne along with other psychologists, educators, translators and lawyers founded a not-for-profit organization by the name of L'Association Appartenances. Appartenances now has three locations throughout Switzerland. They have several departments that assist women, men and families, as well as provide translators who cover over forty languages, computer education, legal aid and research. Jocelyne works in the department known as Center Femmes (Center for Women). She is one of the Child and Family psychologists.

Jocelyne Michel not only assists in the healing and progress of the Swiss society through her works at Appartenances, but also through politics. The successes in her political endeavors make her the only woman of color on the Legislative Counsel for the Commune of Pully, Switzerland. She has been on this counsel for nine years as a member of the Naturalization Commission, where she served as President for four years. Her decisions affect the naturalization process and opportunities for many who seek to become Swiss citizens. She is the mother of one daughter, Clemence. Her philosophy is to think, to believe, but above all to be compassionate and honest. Jocelyne Michel is a true advocate for the less privileged.





The Honorable
Portia Simpson-Miller, WGE

Prime Minister, Jamaica
2001 Honoree





Dr. Louise Shalomah Pyant, WGE



Dr. Louise Shalomah Pyant, WGE

Dr. Louise Shalomah Pyant is a woman of faith, vision, and perseverance. She is a graduate of Walden University and holds a Doctorate in Human Services with a Specialization in Family and Marriage Counseling. Dr. Pyant graduated from New York University with a Masters in Reading Psychology, and holds second Masters in Administration and Supervision. Dr. Pyant was employed as a part-time professor of psychology teaching undergraduates at the college of New Rochelle for five years. She moved on to teach for Walden University in their Masters of Education program, where she is currently employed as a part time professor. She currently serves full time as an Assistant Principal and Special Education Supervisor, supervising Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, as well as the First, Second, and Fifth grades. In addition, Dr. Pyant has a private practice where she provides therapy to families and marriages in crisis. Dr. Pyant serves as wife, minister, educator, therapist, and motivational speaker. Working to help people is her life. It is her mission.

She began tutoring children in the home in 1991 and later had the vision to use the church for a tutorial and summer camp program. The program provided jobs for women and teens in the community, and a safe, social environment for the academic at-risk children that she served. The program enrolled more than sixty students for summers of fun, as well as employed youth from the Summer Youth Program. Dr. Pyant has a strong belief that children need to develop social skills for their success and future. She trained her staff to support the children's social development, as well as provide small group tutoring. In 1998, Dr. Pyant founded the Higher Steps Day Care and continued her After-School Tutorial Program and Summer Camp. In August 2000, Dr. Pyant closed the Day Care and the Summer Camp business when she became an Assistant Principal and began her private counseling practice where she continues to provide counsel to families and youth in crisis.

Dr. Pyant says her therapy practice is designed to guide clients toward identifying and bringing forth the crisis in their lives, and helping them bring understanding to their situations so that they can move on and live. Being led by the Spirit, her untiring work with people has encouraged and fostered change in their lives. Dr. Pyant is a Pillar in her home, church, and community.

Dr. Pyant has parented eight children and raised more than twenty. She and her husband were licensed foster parents for fifteen years. Dr. Pyant says, "God has blessed her and her husband to be parents to more than twenty children in their home." Dr. and Bishop Pyant currently have five children living at home. They have two married sons, four grandchildren, and a daughter who lives in Tampa, Florida.

Dr. Pyant, a woman of prayer and perseverance has many mottos. One of her favorites is, "Don't give in—help is on the way!" She says "With this life comes much turmoil, and we cannot give in to despair, because that is not going to do us any good." "Hold on," she says, "Look up, and believe God for the good and the beautiful!" She is a woman who loves the Lord, church, family, and spirituality.





Raji Reddy, WGE



Raji Reddy, WGE

Born in a small village in the heart of South India, Raji Reddy was the first girl in her family to graduate from College. She became an elementary school teacher at St. Joseph's Convent. Following her marriage to Alla Reddy, she moved to the United States where she became a professor at Cheyney University and a tutor for students of all backgrounds.

As a graduate from Cheyney University with a Masters in Special Education, she was the first Asian teacher in the conservative West Chester Area school district, and the first teacher in the school district to wear her traditional attire (an Indian Sari) throughout her eighteen years of service. While working with mentally, physically and emotionally handicapped students, she also engaged the school staff to actively promote multicultural awareness to tens of thousands of students during her career. Each year she would travel to schools and classes throughout the public school system to educate and expose Indian culture, customs, traditions and food.

Upon retiring from teaching, she moved to Hawaii where she found a tremendous need for teachers from the continental United States. While in Hawaii, Raji worked with students in a program designed for low achievers to help them increase their self-esteem and become responsible members of the community.

Since her first days of teaching in India, Raji has been an integral part of many students' lives from all socioeconomic levels, religions and backgrounds. She hopes to continue this pursuit of bringing education, diverse perspectives and self confidence to children in both the U.S. and in her birth country of India.





Dr. Bernadette Sheridan, WGE



Dr. Bernadette Sheridan, WGE

Dr. Bernadette Sheridan has more than twenty years of experience in family medical practice. Throughout her career, she has always sought to find a balance between career goals, family, and self-fulfillment. Her objective is to build from this foundation a practice that will serve more people and families that need help, but in a manner that will lead to disease prevention, early detection, disease management, patient empowerment and a healthier population. The work that Dr. Sheridan has completed and continues to offer has prepared her for a leadership position as a physician in reducing the gap in health disparities. She has addressed population health issues with her team of experts since 1988. This team represents the full spectrum of care and guidance that a patient needs to live a full and healthy life.

Dr. Sheridan proudly claims to be a Native New Yorker born of Caribbean parents. After completing secondary education in New York City, she received her undergraduate degree in Natural Sciences and Romance Languages from the Johns Hopkins University in 1975. Four years later she was awarded the M.D. degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. While at Buffalo, she was active in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and spent time in the SNMA-sponsored sub-internship programs. She returned to New York in 1979. She successfully completed her internship at Brookdale Hospital in the Department of Internal Medicine and went on to graduate from the Department of Family Practice in 1982. After a brief stint as a full-time attending physician at the Brookdale Family Practice Center, a unique clinic staffed by Family Practitioners, Dr. Sheridan entered Private Practice in the Brownsville Community. From 1993 until 1997, she was a member for the Teaching Faculty at Brookdale. As a manager and leader, Dr. Sheridan was able to interact with the resident doctors, supervise their work, and help to prepare them for the practice of Medicine.

Dr. Sheridan is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Family Practice, with affiliations at the State and Local levels. Certified 1983-90. Recertified 1990-97; 1997-2004; 2004-2011. Dr. Sheridan is a member of the Overseas Medical Assistance Team, a group of Doctors and Health Care Professionals who volunteer their time for annual trips to Underserved Areas of the Caribbean and Africa. In 1999, Dr. Sheridan was a member of a team of twenty Family Physicians who were a part of a cultural exchange with Physicians in Cuba. There they observed the Medical care in that Country and were involved in promoting healthy dialogue and exchange of ideas between Family Doctors with the objective of promoting good will between professionals..

In November 2003, Dr. Sheridan launched the Grace Family Medical Practice, where she practices solo (for the first time in twenty years) with a staff that includes a Family Nurse Practitioner and Nutritionist. Dr. Sheridan has been named as one of New York's "Top Doctors" for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and again for 2005. Besides her hospital and medical duties, Dr. Sheridan is a full-time mother of two college-age daughters, and manages to make time for her other interests, which include running an e-commerce business, singing, gardening, writing, making computer art for her friends and traveling.





The Honorable
Dame Jennifer M. Smith, DBE, DHumL, JP, MP, WGE



The Hon. Dame Jennifer M. Smith

DBE, DHumL, JP, MP, WGE

Dame Jennifer is the Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. She is the Regional Representative for the Caribbean, Atlantic and Americas Region. Dame Jennifer is the Deputy Speaker of the Bermuda House of Assembly. She represents the Constituency of St. George's North.

Dame Jennifer has the distinction of being the first Leader of the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party (PLP) to guide them to a general election victory after thirty-six years in Opposition. This victory happened on Monday, November 9, 1998. Dame Jennifer also led her Party to an historic second term on July 24, 2003. However, four days later - following a revolt by eleven of the twenty-two newly elected PLP Members of Parliament - she resigned her position as Party Leader and Premier. In her farewell speech, Dame Jennifer said that she was loathe to subject her Party to the intense internal fighting a tied vote in the Parliamentary Group would entail, just days into its second term as government.

Dame Jennifer has gained a wealth of experience in her thirty-five years as a Parliamentarian. Prior to becoming an elected Member of the House of Assembly in 1989, she had the honour of being the youngest woman to run in a general election (1972). In 1980, she became the first woman appointed to the Senate and the youngest member at that time. There, she became known as an effective and articulate Bermuda Progressive Labour Party spokesperson on Education, Health and Social Services, Youth, Sports and Recreation, and Culture. During six attempts over a period of 17 years, she changed her St. George's North constituency from a UBD stronghold into a PLP stronghold. With her election in 1989, Jennifer Smith brought dignity and distinction to the House of Assembly, dedication and diplomacy to her constituency and hope and optimism to Bermuda.

Dame Jennifer established the framework for change in Education as the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party Government's first Minister of Education. Jennifer Smith relinquished the Education portfolio on April 1, 1999, to better concentrate on the role of Premier. Dame Jennifer's political experience has been broadened through participation at various international conferences and symposiums, including: the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the Overseas Territories Consultative Council meetings in London, The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Plenary Conferences and the UK/Caribbean Forum in Guyana.

Dame Jennifer's background, both by training and experience, encompasses the Arts, Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising and Communications. Her deep personal empathy for people and their concerns has helped her to transcend gender and race in all sectors of the Bermuda community. Her commitment to service and social issues over the years has included service as Public Relations Officer for the Bermuda TB Cancer and Health Association; a Charter Member of the St. George's Jaycees; a Founding Member of Friends of the Bermuda College Library, a Founding Member of the Bermuda Heritage Association, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bermuda National Gallery, and a volunteer for Masterworks. In addition, she is a member of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, the Bermuda Society of Arts, The Bermuda Business & Professional Women's Club; The Berkeley Educational Society; Masterworks Foundation; Bermuda Zoological Society; Amnesty International; Bermuda Debate Society; The Bermuda Arts Centre at Dockyard; Keep Bermuda Beautiful, the Bermuda Maritime Museum and Richard Allen AME Church.

