

WOMEN OF GREAT ESTEEM MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



THE VERY REVEREND DR. MICHELLE LAMONTE BERRY

*Dr. Berry is a stern austere, gracious and endearing leader whose ability to be fair and honest has kept her at the wheel of a ship which is destined only for "divine success in a sea of troubled water". Dr. Berry is a fighter for the unfortunate, the underprivileged, the down-and-out, lifting them up by the love of God that is within her.*

*Though living in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn, New York, her impact has been felt as far away as the Caribbean, Africa and the Far East, as well as throughout the United States. She has spearheaded justice for medical services to all people regardless of race, national origins or religion; she has been an advocate for the history-marking Immigration Bill under President Reagan; and under President Clinton, she has fought to have welfare changed to social services.*

*One of Dr. Berry's greatest accomplishments came in 1985, when she broke down an eighty-six year barrier by becoming the first female and first black to hold the position of Regional Commander of the National Chaplains Association. Bias, however, caused her to resign, for she refused to give in to her superior's demands to exclude certain people because of sexual orientation, race, color, creed or origin.*

*Dr. Berry made history again in July 1987 as the first female to become Associate Pastor of an African Baptist Church even though she was not of that faith. Soon thereafter, she was named First Bishop of New York and the Phillippines for the Faith Restoration Center Inc.. A member of various prestigious organizations, Dr Berry was the first black female to be certified as an Advanced Psychoneurogenic Specialist. She also became a commissioned member of the U.S. Chaplains Association, whose purpose is to upgrade the education of ministers.*

*Dr. Berry is Presiding Bishop for New York and the Phillippines and Commander in Chief for the Caribbean, Africa and Far Eastern Countries for the Faith Restoration Center, a non-profit religious corporation whose history dates back to 1970. From its inception, the Center has fought for people's rights, particularly for youth and deprived individuals. Since 1979, the Center has fed, clothed, sheltered and educated more than 35,000 persons and has raised more than 1800 children. One of the main endeavors of the center is teaching individuals self-discipline, self-direction, self-awareness, self-esteem, self-image, self-expectancy, self control, self-protection and self-motivation.*

*In conjunction with her work at the Faith Restoration Center, Dr. Berry has become a member of the Rose of Sharon Spiritual Outreach Association, the International Clergy Association, the Writers/Students and Truthseekers Association, the Worldwide Spiritual Ministers Association and the Religious Science Doctrine Institute.*

*Now married to Linton Pierre and the mother of three - Deslina, Victoria and Emmanuel, she first traveled to the United States to begin theological studies in Bay, St. Louis, Missouri. She has since studied at the University of Maryland, Columbia University, the University of Stuggart, the Royal College of England, Pace Theological College and St. John's College.*

*Dr. Berry's personal vision has always been to get religious workers together to teach them to live and work, she has done this. To date, her accomplishments speak for themselves.*

*The Very Rev. Dr. Nichelle Lamonte Berry 2*

WOMAN OF GREAT ESTEEM HONOREE



KAREN MCCARTHY BROWN, PH.D.

*Dr. Karen McCarthy Brown is currently a professor of Sociology & Anthropology of Religion, Graduate & Theological Schools at Drew University. Dr. Brown earned her Ph.D. from Temple University with distinction on the dissertation, 'The Veve of Haitian Vodou: A Structural Analysis of Visual Imagery.'*

*Since 1969, Dr. Brown has been teaching religion at such universities as Barnard College, Temple University, Western College for Women, Rutgers University & Harvard Divinity School. She has conducted field research in Bermuda, Ghana, Togo, Benin & Nigeria, Haiti. She continues to do research in the Haitian Immigrant community in Brooklyn. It was during this time that she amassed the material for her world-renown book, Mama Lola: A Voodoo Priestess in Brooklyn.*

*Among her honors and awards are The Will Herberg Distinguished Professor, The Graduate School of Drew University, 1991; Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing, 1992, for Mama Lola, Society For Humanistic Anthropology, American Anthropological Association; The Drew University Scholar-Teacher of the Year, President's Award, Drew University, 1992; Best First Book in the History of Religion for 1991, American Academy of Religion, for Mama Lola; and The Philips Scholar in the Program in Women's Studies, Harvard Divinity School, Spring 1986.*

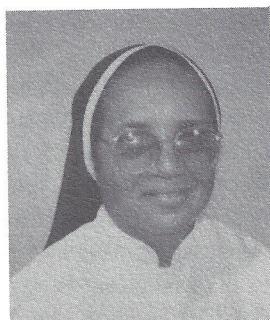


*Some of her publications include: "Why Women need the War God," in Women's Spirit Bonding (1984); "Roundtable on Feminist Methodology," Journal of Feminist Studies and Religion (1985); "The Power to Heal: Reflections on Women Religion and Medicine," Shaping New Vision: Gender and Values in American Culture (1987); "Tracing the Spirit: Ethnographic Essays on Haitian Art" (1995); "Good Mothers and The Curse: The Burning of Wives in India" (1994); "Heretics and Pagans: Women in the Academic World," in Public Ethics versus Private Morality; and "Translation Is Not Only About Texts," Proceedings Of The 1984 Conference On Textual And Contextual Translation, The Center For The Study Of World Religions, Harvard University.*

*With her full teaching position with the Newark Project at Drew University, Dr. Brown still manages to find time to write for six major forthcoming publications including, "An Intellectual Journey In the Anthropology Of Religion: From Mama Lola to a Critique of the Academic Study of Religion," in a collection of essays on the Anthropology of Religion and "Vodou in the "Tenth Department," New York's Haitian Community," to appear in a collection of essays from the spring 1996 conference, "Beyond 'Primitivism': Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity".*



*WOMAN OF GREAT ESTEEM SALUTEE*



*SISTER PAUL MARIE CLARKE*

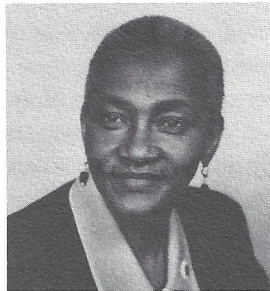
*Sister Paul Marie Clarke was born on May 2, 1934 in Belmont, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad to Albert and Marjorie Clarke who were poor and humble but hardworking, dedicated and loving people. Her early years were spent with ten brothers and one sister, in a happy home despite the hardships of poverty. Her parents' love for the poor and her large family, were the seeds for her own zeal and love for the less fortunate and those in need. She grew up in a solid spiritual and religious atmosphere, so it was not surprising that soon after passing the Cambridge School Certificate at the age of sixteen, she heard and heeded the call of God for a life of complete dedication to Him. To this day she has no regrets.*

*After her religious formation she graduated from Teacher's College and taught for a few years at St. Dominic's Home where she spent eleven years working as Teacher, House Mother and Personnel Manager. After a year of extra spiritual training in France, she was appointed Novice Mistress - an office which entails training young women for religious life- where she spent the next six years. She then went to a Pastoral Counseling Course in Jamaica, Queens, U.S.A.. During that time she lived with a community of nuns in Harlem and taught in one of the schools there. Life in Harlem was certainly different from life in Trinidad!*

*Upon returning to Trinidad, she worked at the Mary Care Center - a center for unmarried, pregnant teenagers, then at the Chaplaincy of the University of the West Indies and also at the Holy Name Training Center - a residential training school for needy teenagers. In 1975 she was active in community work in the parish of Point Fortin, and after spending six years there, she worked with the West Indian community in Toronto, Ontario.*

*From 1983 to 1988 she served in the community of Toco in the North-East Coast of Trinidad, and from 1989 she has worked in La Brea, struggling to lift the hopes and aspirations of the people in this community, where unemployment, crime and drugs abound. In all the communities where she spent time laboring in the Lord's vineyard, she was truly happy ministering to others and in the process, being inspired and ministered to by others. The love of Jesus urges her on - and as He went about doing good, she prays that she may be able to continue His work here in His vineyard.*

WOMAN OF GREAT ESTEEM HONOREE



HON. UNA S. T. CLARKE

*Council member Una S. T-Clarke, a Jamaican national, is married, the mother of two children and three grandchildren. First elected in 1991 to represent the newly created 40th District in Brooklyn, she is the only Caribbean-born woman to ever serve in the City Legislature. She brings to the Council a distinguished career in public service and advocacy spanning more than three decades in diverse fields, ranging from labor activism and early childhood education to immigrants rights and the struggle for empowerment of women and minorities. In 1993, she was returned to office for four more years with a record of 93 percent of votes cast in the general election.*

*Since taking office, Concilmember Clarke has moved aggressively in the Council to convene hearings and enact legislation to enhance the general welfare of children and families. She has fought successfully for the adoption of more stringent standards of enforcement in group and family day-care centers throughout the city and spearheaded the establishment of an Immigrant Transition Institute for newly arriving students in the public school system. She emerged as the leading advocate in the Council for Women - and Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) seeking access to government contracts and has sought to empower the immigrant community by championing their right to vote in citywide elections. She also is noted for her activism on behalf of Haitian refugees fleeing political repression at home.*



*In addition to her assignments as a member of the Council Committees on Youth, Health and General Welfare, Honorable Una Clarke was also appointed to chair the Council's Subcommittee on Mental Health, with oversight responsibility for mental retardation, alcoholism and substance abuse.*

*Before her election to the Council, she served as a Senior Consultant on Early Education with the New York City Agency for Child Development and as an adjunct professor at Medgar Evers College. She has also served on the boards of numerous professional institutions and held leadership positions in various political and advocacy organizations including the Caribbean American Political Organization and the Caribbean Action Lobby. She has been honored with scores of awards and commendations by community and professional organizations, including the Congressional Brain Trust of Education and the Martin Luther King Commission.*

*Councilmember Clarke holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Long Island University, the Masters of Education degree from New York University, and has pursued additional post-graduate studies at the Teachers College and School of Business at Columbia University. In 1984, she was the first foreign-born awardee of the prestigious Revson Fellowship from Columbia University. In recognition of her academic and professional accomplishments, she is listed in the Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.*

WOMEN OF GREAT ESTEEM HONOREE



*ROSALIND ROBINSON JEFFRIES, PH.D.*

*Rosalind Robinson was born June 24, 1936, in Harlem, New York City, to Mary Gibson Robinson and Edmond Robinson. Harlem, at that time, was yet rich in culture, artists, writers, book collectors, orators, performers, Black nationalists, cultural nationalist, The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Yoruba Temple, Black Hebrews, Nation of Islam and many Christian denominations. These institutions in her neighborhood exposed Rosalind to the diversity of black culture and gave her a flair for multi-cultural internationalism commensurate with the megapolis to come. At age ten she and her older brother, Edmond were playing classical piano in youth-group concerts at the world famous Town-Hall. Later she would win yearly awards in painting at the prestigious National Academy of Fine Arts, Fifth Avenue. She learned culture and anthropology not just from college but from real life interactions.*

*The Robinsons remained faithful Baptist and Methodist, yet Islam was a positive community force. She heard the speeches of Malcolm X live on the soap box every Saturday while returning from family shopping. It was Malcolm X who delivered her younger brother from the ravages of drugs before he escaped into the Vietnam war and became an outstanding citizen of Hawaii.*

*An important year in the life of Rosalind Robinson was 1960, when she first visited Europe and Africa, where she joined the Operation Crossroads*

*Africa. As a Crossroader, she learned multi cultural interaction on a larger scale, and helped to later train groups in this area. The next year, 1961, she met Leonard Jeffries, Jr. who had just returned from his first trip with Operation Crossroads Africa, to Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Ghana and was giving an address in an auditorium at the United Nations Plaza. The couple was married on November 29, 1964. They went off to live in the Ivory Coast - Mr. Jeffries researched economics for his Ph.D. and Mrs. Jeffries worked as Exhibition Officer for Mr. Will Petty, U.S. Cultural Affairs Officer. After two years, both Rosalind and Leonard Jeffries returned to teach in Public Education.*

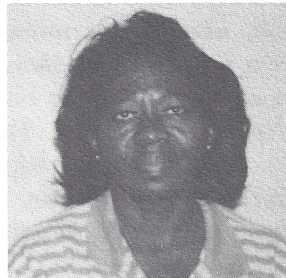
*Dr. Rosalind Jeffries taught auditorium size classes. Black Studies had an entire building which she transformed into a sort of museum with original artifacts which she shipped directly from Africa, and exhibited with pictorial documents of American History. Since 1967 nearly every year they lead educational seminars to Africa, bringing books and supplies for schools, and medical supplies for rural clinics.*

*Dr. Jeffries developed a career as a lecturer, educator and museum curator. Her great love was always art and its history, people and cultures. It is her belief that art unites in genius and quality. She formally studied history, culture, museums in the History Of Art Department at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Her Ph.D. was granted in 1992. Dr. Jeffries has worked full time at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Center For African Art, N.Y.C., and part-time as a docent at the Brooklyn Museum. She has lectured consistently at the American Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.. Her accomplishments, affiliations and awards are too many to list, however the following list of partial exhibitions which she has curated over the years, is significant because it indicates a level of consistent hard work and research commitment: ASAC - The Association For The Study Of African Classical Civilizations, AHSA - African Heritage Studies Association. She has helped to educate and inspire masses of people on an individual level and through community and national professional organizations. Through NCA - National Conference Of Artists, she received the Leopold Senghor award for the year 1985 in Senegal; and the Aime Cesaire Award 1994, in Martinique.*

*Rosalind Robinson Jeffries, Ph.D.*



WOMAN OF GREAT ESTEEM SALUTE



WAVENEY LYNETTE JOSEPH, R.N.

*Waveney Lynnette Joseph was born on December 26, 1942 to the late George Robertson, a farmer and security guard, and Maude Robertson, housewife and washer woman in Belfield on the East Coast of the Demerara in Guyana, S.A.. Her father was also caretaker at the Belfield House, a home for Catholic Nuns. The servants there were very kind to the Robertson family, by feeding them when they had no food. In remembrance of those acts of kindness, Ms. Joseph made a promise that when she grew up, she would help them if they were ever in need,. Two of the servants died before she could fulfill her promise, but the lone survivor is now supported , along with her two grandchildren one of whom is physically disabled, by Ms. Joseph.*

*After graduating from high school, she went on to teach the first grade for two years. She was president of the Catholic Globe Organization for Youth in her community. As leader of this organization, she was responsible for planning such activities as, summer programs, physical fitness sports and cleaning the church in preparation for mass on Sundays.*

*Ms. Waveney Joseph arrived in the United States in 1971. While working towards being a licensed registered nurse, she worked at small jobs to fulfill her duty to her family. She is a hard working, successful single parent who believes in the highest standards of education. Ever since she obtained her first full-time job, she has been voluntarily assisting the rest of her extended family, by paying the full tuition for their educational advancement. Her dream as a single and divorced grandmother, is to see her grandchildren excel in whatever they pursue. She is an ardent believer in child's safety and spends much time educating parents in safety*

*prevention at home. She is a member of the 67th Precinct Benevolent Association and Civilian Radio Patrol.*

*She is in remission of fifteen years from reconstructive breast surgery due to cancer. As a result of her experience, she volunteers her time to support and comfort people who are suffering from cancer, especially women who have cancer of the breast. In addition to her voluntary activities in the United States, Ms. Joseph has traveled extensively. Her most recent trip was with a group to Mozambique where she practiced nursing, painted schools and hospitals and consoled relatives of terminally ill patients. She also brought joy to the children by providing toys and playing games.*

*Ms. Joseph is a Registered Nurse, licensed in New York State. Her only regret in life is that she cannot include professional singing in her busy schedule. However, she sings to her patients which always makes them smile. Some of her activities include educating people in the prevention of diseases and injuries, counseling on alcoholism, drug addiction; making referrals and placing homeless. She has always dreamt of becoming a teacher. However, her drive to promote better health care took over. Still, she enjoys patient teaching - educating the young and old alike.*

WOMAN OF GREAT ESTEEM SALUTEE



"MAMA LOLA"

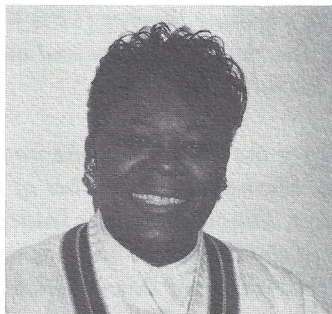
ALOURDES CHAMPAGNE LOVINSKI

*Mama Lola was born in Port-Au Prince, Haiti in the early 1930s. She is descended from a line of strong women, Vodou priestesses and healers. As a young performer with the Haitian Troupe Folklorique, she became known throughout Haiti for her beautiful voice and the Vodou songs she sang with such feeling. Mama Lola immigrated to the United States in 1963 and, not long after, began working here as a spiritual adviser and community healer. She has four children, five grandchildren, one great grandchild and dozens of 'spiritual' children.*

*She met Karen McCarthy Brown in 1978 and worked with her on production of the book: Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn. Since publication of this book, Mama Lola has done presentations on Haitian Vodou at Hamilton College, The Museum for African Art, The Open Center, The Fowler Museum of UCLA, The Waterloo Museum of Art in Waterloo, Iowa, and most recently, Brooklyn College. She also served as a consultant on the exhibition, "The Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou," which opened at the Fowler Museum in Los Angeles. The British Broadcasting Corporation has made a documentary about Haitian Vodou that features Mama Lola which aired in 1995, it was called "A Vodou Priestess in New York."*



WOMAN OF GREAT ESTEEM SALUTEE



REVEREND BARBARA DAVIS-PENNANT

*The firstborn of Missionary Naomi Smiley, Rev. Barbara Davis-Pennant was born on September 12, 1951. She is the proud mother of two sons and three grandchildren. Reverend Davis-Pennant received her early education in Jamaica, where she studied at St. Andrew Technical High School and later at the Lighthouse International of the Four Square Evangelical Bible College (LIFE), where she graduated in 1985 as the Valedictorian. She also studied at Oaktown Community college in Illinois.*

*A devoted servant of the Lord, Rev. Davis-Pennant is committed to serving her fellow people wherever she goes and is always prepared to go the extra mile, no matter what the cost may be. She decided to make the Lord the head of her life when she accepted him in 1973. She made a commitment to serving people, a deed which earned her the official call to the ministry of God as an Aspiring Missionary in 1978.*

*Reverend Barbara Davis-Pennant, in her endeavor to serve the Lord and her people, has worked with young people and served in many categories. For the hungry, she provides food; for the homeless, she negotiated shelter; for the depressed, she provides counseling; for the sick and shut-ins, her intercessory prayers have been known to reverse the plans of the Adversary.*

*Her love for young people has earned her such positions as Field Worker for National Sunday School in Jamaica (making history as the first woman to hold that position in the country's history), and National Worker in the*

*Department Young People's Willing Worker (YPWW). She has held other positions such as that of District Missionary and member of the National Executive Board in the island of Jamaica.*

*She continued her work for the Lord when she immigrated to the United States in the early 1980's. She became a member of the Church of God In Christ (COGIC) in Chicago, Illinois under the leadership of Bishop Carlis Moody. Her command of the scriptures and her willingness to share the word of God earned her the position of Dean of Bible Studies. In 1992 She relocated to Connecticut where she has been an outstanding worker in the Wilson Memorial COGIC in Stamford, where her Pastor is Bishop Charles H. Brewer, Jr.. Since her stay at Wilson's Memorial, Reverend Davis-Pennant has served as: President of the Young Women's Christian Council (YWCC), Member of a daily prayer group of women, Dean of Bible Studies and Assistant State Supervisor for Women in Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies.*

*Serving her church as an international figure, Reverend Barbara Davis-Pennant continues to spread her joys of love and brotherhood. This time she adopted several families, and personally took on the responsibilities for their daily lives.*

*WOMAN OF GREAT ESTEEM HONOREE*



*IVONNE MERCADO*

*Ivonne Mercado is the proud mother of Daniel Alexander and Edward William. Being actively involved in her children's life, she is a first grade Religious Education teacher and regularly attends football, soccer, basketball and swimming meets and games to cheer her children on. Ms. Mercado has a rich and varied background. She was born and raised in New York City to a Puerto Rican father and Mexican mother. She believes in living her life to its fullest potential and realizes that life is not about what she can get but what she can give.*

*Ms. Mercado is the founder and President of DanEd Enterprise, Inc.. DanEd is a multifaceted company that deals with media/public relations and publishing. She is the publisher of ¡Hola ! New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, which is an annual resource guide targeted specifically for the growing Hispanic Community. It includes valuable information for this growing community and for those who deal within this community in the Tri-State Area. While briefly living in Virginia, she worked with a Hispanic publication as a National Accounts Manager. After returning to New York she saw a need for a resource guide that included Hispanic organizations, elected officials, consulates, scholarships and more positive information. Ms. Mercado has also served as a role model for Directions For Our Youth, a non-profit organization that provides minority role-models to inner-city schools. She served as "Principal for a day" at a Lower East Side Elementary school.*



*Ivonne Mercado was introduced to the political process at an early age by her father. While serving as a Small Business Liaison for the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration under Governor Pedro Rosello, she promoted business opportunities in Puerto Rico and assisted Puerto Ricans interested in starting a business on the mainland. Serving as a Community Affairs Associate, she represented New York State Governor George Pataki at functions throughout the State. Ms. Mercado also interned at La Fortaleza in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for former Governor Carlos Romero Barcelo and was a page at the 1976 National Democratic Convention at Madison Square Garden. She represented the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. under Chairman Lee Atwater, while working in the Political Outreach Division. She was also a member of Republicans for Choice in Washington D.C.. Moreover, Ms. Mercado worked at AT&T in the Marketing Department and Mellon Bank on the Foreign Exchange Trading Floor.*

*Ms. Mercado has been featured as an "Up and Coming Latina" by VIVA Magazine and a Notable Hispanic Woman by TEMAS Magazine. She has received awards from the Grand Council of Hispanic Societies for her commitment to excellence, Cornerstone of Medical Arts for her dedication to a drug free community and the Dr. Ramon Ermeterio Betances Award for Leadership by the Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee. Ivonne Mercado is a member of the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and various other Hispanic organizations throughout the Tri-state area.*