

Iyanla Vanzant

Woman of Great Esteem Award of Excellence Honoree

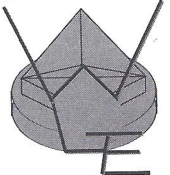
Some people will tell you that Iyanla Vanzant is a speaker in a class all her own. For 18 years she studied everyone and everything that spoke to personal strength, personal growth and empowerment. She then integrated that information into her own experiences and developed a common sense approach for addressing life's challenges.

Others say she is not a speaker. They say she is a teacher. Delivering more than 100 keynote addresses annually, she teaches the importance of discovering your "spiritual self." She shares, from her own experiences, how to move beyond whatever has happened in your life to what you came to life to do. According to Iyanla, "You cannot expect to evolve politically, socially or economically until you evolve spiritually." That sentiment is at the heart of every message she delivers. As founder and Executive Director of Inner Visions Worldwide Network, Iyanla teaches about the spiritual principles of living. She lives her life, and runs her ministry in a way that offers hope and inspiration to people of all ages, races and nations.

Still others say she is a spiritual visionary. Iyanla's commitment to the spiritual evolution of humanity, particularly women and children, is evidenced by her tireless efforts on behalf of those who are battered, homeless or seeking deliverance from alcohol and substance addiction.

The world knows Iyanla as a prolific writer - the best-selling author of seven books, including the award winning *Acts of Faith: The Value in the Valley: In the Meantime; One day My Soul Just Opened Up*; and the recently released *Yesterday I Cried; Celebrating the Lessons of Living and Loving*. Over 3 million readers can attest to the transformational and healing power of Iyanla's message.

So, just who is Iyanla Vanzant? Teacher, Writer, Internationally acclaimed speaker. Women's Right Activist. Children's Advocate. Visionary. Attorney. Radio Talk Show Host. Mother. Grandmother. Wife. Shoe "diva." Someone once called her, "Our Guru from the hood," noting that Iyanla travels through the often forgotten neighborhoods of the emotional and spiritual lives of people in order to bring them out of the darkness of pain, fear, and shame, taking them into the light of love. Iyanla laughs as she responds saying, "I used to be just another Black woman, but today, I am a child of God! This means I am unique, but I am not special. I am an ordinary person who is dedicated to doing extra ordinary things." According to all accounts, she does very special things to and for anyone who is in her presence.





The Honorable
Una S.T. Clarke, C.D.
President Caribbean-American Elected Officials & Leaders
Woman of Great Esteem Vice President at Large



The Honourable Una S.T. Clarke, C.D.

Born in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, West Indies, Una Clarke migrated to the United States with the anticipation of completing her education. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Long Island University; a Master of Education degree from New York University and while taking post-graduate courses at Teachers College and the School of Business at Columbia University in 1984 was the first foreign-born recipient of the prestigious Revson Fellowship. As many will attest, however, the academic letter is no barometer for determining the worth of one whose life is an epistle of community service.

While her intentions were to develop a career in finance, education and public service held center stage as she became the first Caribbean-born woman elected to the Legislature of New York City in 1991, serving the 40th District. Councilwoman Clarke regularly directed millions of dollars for education, health, arts, parks and economic development to her district. Much of those resources served to technologically prepare schools for the 21st century. To date, Wingate High School has the only licensed aviation program in the New York City Board of Education. Indicative of her true vocation, she was the Senior Education Consultant for the City of New York Agency for Child Development and also found time to serve as adjunct professor, teaching courses related to these concerns, at Brooklyn College and at Medgar Evers College.

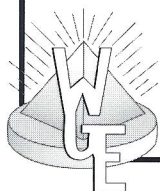
Councilwoman Clarke, during her ten-year tenure, sponsored more than 350 pieces of legislation, which, in addition to educational development, included child welfare, mental health public safety and immigration law reform. These legislative endorsements covered a wide range of issues which are reflected in her participation on more than the following committees: The City Council's Committees on Aging, Youth Services, Economic Development, General Welfare (Human Services) and Health and chaired the Council's Subcommittee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. She was a member on the Council's Black and Hispanic Caucus and is also the founder and president of The Association of Caribbean American Elected Officials and Leaders.

The accomplishments of this legendary woman, Una Clarke, raised the boundaries of academia and legislation. As her husband, Leslie Clarke Sr., her son, Leslie Jr., and daughter Yvette, to whom she bequeaths her political legacy, will attest, her expressions of justice, compassion and love are merely a reflection of her Center, which is itself infinite.






The Honourable
Dame Lois Marie Browne-Evans, DBE, JP, MP
Excellence Award



The Honourable Dame Lois Marie Browne-Evans, DBE, JP, MP

AME LOIS MARIE BROWNE-EVANS is the Attorney General of Bermuda and Minister of Legislative Affairs. She is Bermuda's first female lawyer, first Black woman elected to Parliament, first female Opposition Leader in the British Commonwealth, first PLP Minister of Legislative Affairs, first PLP Attorney General and the longest serving PLP Member of Parliament.

The Hon. Dame Lois Browne-Evans has stood at the forefront of law and politics in Bermuda for more than four decades. Often hailed as a living legend, she is without doubt one of Bermuda's most respected and influential citizens. She was made a Dame by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in her June 1999 Birthday Honours.

Upon the completion of her studies at Middle Temple, London, she was subsequently called to the Bermuda Bar. In 1963, she won a seat in the House of Assembly and five years later, became Leader of the Opposition Bermuda Progressive Labour Party. Thereby, gaining world-wide recognition and acclaim as the first female Leader of the Opposition in the Commonwealth.

Dame Lois is currently the Island's longest serving Member of Parliament, having represented her Devonshire North Constituency for 35 years without interruption. Her victory in 1963 marked the first election ever contested by the Progressive Labour Party. She served as Leader of the Opposition from 1968 to 1972 and from 1976 to 1985, when she voluntarily stepped down on both occasions.

Dame Lois' outstanding debating skills have served Bermuda well, particularly at the historic London and Bermuda Constitutional Conferences and as a delegate to numerous international conferences in the Caribbean, Africa, New Zealand and the USA. Her many talents and abilities have enriched not only Bermuda's political arena and the field of criminal law where she is a leading player, but also a variety of local and overseas organizations in which she holds membership. Dame Lois is a founding member of the Bermuda Business and Professional Women's Club.

After the Progressive Labour Party became the Government of Bermuda, His Excellency, the Governor swore Dame Lois in as Minister of Legislative Affairs. In March 1999, she was also named Attorney General. Dame Lois and her husband John have three children, Ernestine, Donald and Nadine, and are the proud grandparents of Kassandra, Ariana and Rodney Ka.





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.





Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P.

Deputy Prime Minister

Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados

Award of Excellence



Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P.

The Honorable Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P., received her law degree from the London School of Economics specializing in advocacy and is a Barrister of the Bar in England and Wales. Miss Mottley was one of two Opposition Senators in the Senate of Barbados between 1991 and 1994 while serving as Shadow Minister of Culture and Community Development and on a number of Joint Select Committees in various areas, such as Praedial Larceny and Domestic Violence. Elected to the Barbados Parliament in September 1994 as part of Prime Minister Owen Arthur's new Barbados Labour Party Government, she is now Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados.

One of the youngest persons ever to be assigned to a ministerial portfolio, Deputy Prime Minister Mottley was appointed to the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture. While there she co-authored a well-known White Paper that draws the link between education and economic achievement. In 1996 and again in 1997 she served as Chair of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Education (Caribbean Community). A member of the National Security Council of Barbados and the Barbados Defence Board, in 1996, she became General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party, a position which she held up until October 2004.

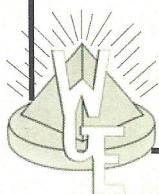
In August 2001, Deputy Prime Minister Mottley was appointed Attorney-General (the first female to hold this position), Minister of Home Affairs and the leader of Government's Business in the House of Assembly. In January 2002, she became a member of the Local Privy Council. She was also admitted to the Inner Bar of Barbados, becoming the youngest ever Queen's Counsel in Barbados. Notably, in September, 2001 she assumed the Chair of the Regional Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

In May 2003, Hon. Mia Mottley was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados. In addition, she now serves as the Chair of the Social Council of Barbados and the Deputy Chair of Barbados' Economic Council. As Deputy Prime Minister, she continues to assist in the progressive development of her beloved Barbados, she embraces added responsibilities to Chair of number of key Cabinet sub-committees, notably Telecommunications Reform and the Administrative and Legislative Oversight Initiatives, preparing Barbados for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Deputy Prime Minister Mia Mottley is one the most powerful and influential women in Caribbean Politics today.





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 UDP 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.

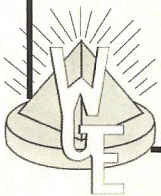
Dame Jennifer established the framework for change in Education as the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party Government's first Minister of Education. Jennifer Smith relinquished the Education portfolio on April 1, 1999, to better concentrate on the role of Premier. Dame Jennifer's political experience has 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.





Kavita N. Ramdass, WGE
Award of Excellence



Kavita N. Ramdass, WGE

*K*avita N. Ramdass was born and raised in India. She is currently the President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women, a position she has held since 1996. This organization previously operated as the Community Initiatives Program for the John D. and Catherine T McArthur Foundation from 1988-1996. Under her magnanimous leadership and direction, the Global Fund for women, the largest grant making foundation in the world has focused exclusively on supporting women's human rights. During Ramdass' tenure, Global Fund assets have increased from \$6 million to \$21 million. Grant distributions have increased to more than \$7 million per year. The number of countries receiving grants has also tripled. Ms. Ramdass has also overseen the Global Fund's first ever endowment campaign and the creation of the groundbreaking Now or Never Fund to ensure women's participation on critical international issues.

In 1988, Ms. Ramdass earned a Master of Public Affairs in International Development Studies from Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University. In 1985, she received a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Holyoke College. Ms. Ramdass maintains an expertise in Women's human rights, social justice, philanthropy and international development. She is fluent in Hindi and Urdu, English and German and is conversational in Tamil, Spanish and French.

Ms. Ramdass sits on several boards among them, Women's Funding Network; Mt. Holyoke Board of Trustees; Ethical Globalization Initiative Human Rights Policy Group; Council of Advisors on Gender Equity to the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University; Women's Rights Prize Advisory Council of the Gruber Foundation; Advisory Council and the Women's Learning Partnership.

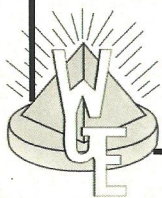
Her writings have appeared in many journals and she has received numerous awards. Among them, Women of Substance Award, African Women's Development Fund, 2005; Juliette Gordon Low Award, Girl Scouts of America, 2005; Woman of the Year for the Public Sector, Financial Women's Association, 2004; LEAD (Leadership for Equity & Diversity) Award, Women & Philanthropy, 2004; 2004 Bay Area Local Hero, KQED Radio, 2004; Women Who Could Be President Award, League of Women Voters, 2003; 21 Leaders for the 21st Century Award, Women's e-News, 2003.

Ms. Ramdass is a warrior for women's rights and an advocate for social justice.





Carmen Charles, WGE
Award of Excellence



Carmen Charles, WGE

Carmen Charles was elected President of the Public Health Care Employees Union, Local 420, in the spring of 2002. Her motto is "Workers 4 Workers". She wasted no time in giving the union back to its 9,000 members. Charles understands what it means to give the union back to its members, since she herself has been a member of Local 420 for 20 years and became active after hearing an inspiring speech by a union leader.

Born in Guyana, South America, she migrated to the United States, twenty five years ago. Ms. Charles started her city employment as a Nurse's Aide at Coler/Goldwater Specialty Hospital. In 1987 she became a shop steward for her chapter, in 1992 the vice chairperson and in April 1999 she became the Vice President of Local 420. She didn't stop there, heeding the call, she continued her ascent, to vie for and win her present position as President. Recently, Ms. Charles graduated from Cornell University's Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, in the Leadership Program.

Ms. Charles is an ardent defender of "employee's rights in the workplace." Since taking office as President of the local, she has successfully negotiated upgrades for her members and returned the local to sound financial footing. Ms. Charles's vision is to empower every member through education and to create a higher level of activism within the local. Above it all, Carmen says that her greatest achievement is being the mother of her three children and a grandmother for her grandsons.

In addition to being recognized for her labor activism, Ms. Charles has received such prestigious awards as the N.A.A.C.P "Freedom Leadership Award", "The Ernest De Maio Labor Award" and both the "Spirit of Excellence" and the "Beacon of Hope" awards in recognition of her visionary leadership.





THE HON. PAULA A. COX, JP, MP, WGE

The Hon. Paula A. Cox, JP, MP was elected as Leader of the Progressive Labour Party and by ascent, in accordance with the Bermuda Constitution Order 1968, Premier of Bermuda, on Thursday, 28 October 2010.

She was first elected to Parliament in October, 1996 when she won a Devonshire North by-election (Constituency 14). Premier Cox, then in her 30's, became one of the youngest members of the House of Assembly. In her subsequent fourteen years as a law-maker for the governing Progressive Labour Party, Premier Cox has garnered wide-ranging experience in Governance having held a number of Cabinet portfolios.

Premier Cox assumed the Finance portfolio exclusively in January 2004, succeeding her late father, the Hon. C. Eugene Cox, CBE, JP, MP and retains the Treasury portion of that portfolio as part of her present Cabinet responsibilities.

Ms. Cox earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from McGill University in Canada, and a post-graduate Diploma in International Law from the University of Manchester. She trained as a Solicitor at the College of Law, Chancery Lane, London and was called to the Bermuda Bar in January 1992. She received an honorary Doctorate in Education at the May 2004 Commencement Exercise of Wheelock College (USA) and more recently, in 2009, was made an honorary alumnus of Dalhousie University.

Premier Cox was chosen as Regional Female Leader of the Year in April 2011.

Premier Cox was formerly a Corporate Counsel at ACE Limited and has been employed as Vice President and Senior Legal Counsel of Global Funds Services at the Bank of Bermuda Limited.

This impeccable background along with her expertise in the field of international law and international business has allowed her to give the PLP Government a strong voice in international financial matters. It is unquestioned she has gained respect throughout the country and across party lines for her brilliance as an articulate lawyer, administrator and politician.

Premier Cox is married to Mr. Germain Nkeuleu and they share a son, Stephane.



JEAN JOSEPH, CPA, WGE

Jean Joseph, CPA, WGE is the founder of Joseph Tax and Consulting Services, LLC. She has dedicated her life to providing professional accounting services to a wide array of individuals and corporations, as well as creating and supporting various organizations and activities that benefit society.

Born and raised in Roseau, Dominica, Ms. Joseph she is a true success story. A graduate of Dominica Teacher's College, she taught at St. Martin's School in the vocational department for ten years. After migrating to the United States in 1978, she attended Iowa State University and then Pace University where she graduated with a BS in Accounting, eventually becoming a Certified Public Accountant. She has worked for American Express, Lionel Lewis CPA and Anchin, Block and Anchin CPA, eventually opening her own firm.

Her volunteer and support services are wide and varied reflecting her total commitment to improving the circumstance and situations of others. Jean Joseph is an inspiration and is truly a Woman of Esteem.