



## Dr. Selina Akua Ahoklui

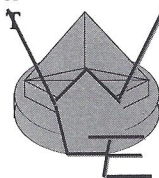
Dr. Selina Akua Ahoklui, a Mathematics and Employment skills teacher at Erasmus Hall Campus High School for Business and Technology in Brooklyn has been selected as the 1998 New York State Teacher of the Year. In appreciation of the honor that Dr. Ahoklui brings to the State's public education system, the New York State Senate interrupted its regular business to honor and publicly acknowledge its gratitude, great respect and high regard to the distinguished native of Ghana and Africa on the occasion of her designation as New York State Teacher of the year for 1997/1998. Besides being nationally honored with the other state teachers of the year by President Bill Clinton, a Legislative Resolution, No. 1792 signed by Senator Markowitz, noted with great admiration, Dr. Ahoklui's performance in the classroom, her concern for the profession and vision for the future.

This award is highly selective and is testimony to Dr. Ahoklui's educational philosophy, her vision for the future, her concern for her profession, and her performance both in the classroom and outside. Dr. Ahoklui has served at her high school since 1994; prior to the restructuring of Erasmus Hall High School from 1987 to 1994, Dr. Ahoklui taught Mathematics to both mainstream and special education students. Her district and the state of New York have recognized Dr. Ahoklui as a leader in the field. She is an internationally renowned educator who holds a Doctorate of Education in Child and Youth Studies, a Masters degree in Mathematics, a Masters degree in Arts and a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts from Winneba Specialist University in Ghana, West Africa; she received her MED from Temple University, and a MS ED. from Long Island University.

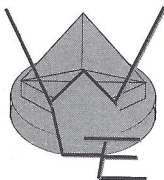
As Coordinator of Special Programs, Dr. Ahoklui is involved in school and community activities; including the School-To-Career and School-To-Work programs; L.E.A.R.N. Link Employment and Responsibility Now; TOP (Training Opportunity Program), the Saturday Academy, and the Fast Track Program. The Saturday Academy provides tutoring and enrichment opportunities for the students and is also open to parents who can attend computer classes to enhance and develop their employment skills. Dr. Ahoklui has been at the forefront of several innovative approaches to instruction in the classroom; she has created a Candy Math approach to teaching mathematics which has been very successful. In her capacity as Coordinator of Ahoklui was involved in established a partnership between her school and Kings Plaza Mall: some of the activities that took place this past year under the luminous and gifted leadership of Dr. Ahoklui included field trips, shadowing, internships, guest speakers, and the Principal for the Day program. Moreover, through her efforts, she has prepared her students, parents, and her colleagues for leadership roles in their chosen fields in anticipation of the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Dr. Ahoklui's commitment to education extends far beyond the classroom.

Over the past years she has been involved in a multitude of school and community activities. Among Dr. Ahoklui's many benevolent and civic minded community activities has been the development and implementation of multicultural festivals, a teenage parenting program, peace-making programs, leadership training and family counseling through hands-on-workshops, and presentations and lecture demonstrations at museums. Throughout her career, Dr. Ahoklui has brought uncommon valor and her wisdom to her role as educator; an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all her endeavors have characterized her distinguished career.

Dr. Ahoklui has received awards too numerous to mention. She received the 1998 New York State Teacher of the Year. Title I Distinguished Educator. Thomas Sobol Foundation Award. Scholastic Award. Bell Atlantic Award. Nynex Award. Brooklyn Union Gas Award. American Foundation of Teachers Award. School-to-Work (L.E.A.R.N.). NYC Transitional Linkage Award. Teacher of the Year Award, Given by: Superintendent of Brooklyn High Schools Proclamation of the City Council. Member of the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching. U.F.T. Award. N.Y. SU. T Award.









## H.R.H. Queen Mother Dr. Deloris Blakely

A noble woman of compassion and caring, Dr. Deloris Blakely champions the aspirations of women, children and teenagers. She criticizes mankind for the economic injustices that has degraded billions of lives worldwide.

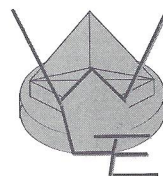
In 1958, Deloris Blakely entered the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary's Convent. For ten years, as Sister Noelita Marie, she worked in New York State in the field of education and as a counselor in prisons. She advocates that sustainable economic development is necessary for building human and social capacity.

Dr. Blakely is held in high regard across Africa, the Caribbean and the United States of America. She has played a key role in memorializing the more than 100 million Africans who died in the middle Passage. Dame of Honor and Merit of the Sovereign Order of the Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights of Malta (1976), Dame Blakely carries on the legacy of Queen Mother Audley Moore (1898-1997) as The Queen Mother of All African Peoples in North America.

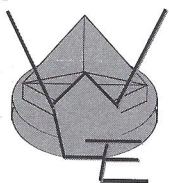
In 1969, Dr. Blakely founded the New Future Foundation, a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural non-profit organization. Successfully using cultural pride, individual initiative, and neighborhood leadership, especially among young people, the Foundation conducts ongoing public information and education to solve problems of racism, poverty and ignorance. During her 30-year career as President of the Foundation, Dr. Blakely has shared "best practices" with many Heads of State and top-level officials. In 1995, Dr. Blakely became Community Mayor of Harlem, the first woman to hold this office.

In partnership with the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, to assure a better future for the world's youth, Dr. Blakely is expanding the Foundation's United Nations African House in Harlem and its Neighborhood Peace University at the City College of the City University of New York. Both these initiatives promote conflict resolution and "demand-based" training among diverse cultural and socio-economic groups.

A Community Fellow (1981-82) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), an Education Policy Fellow (1982-83) of the International Educational Leadership (IEL), a Fulbright Scholar in Tanzania and Nigeria (1984-85), Dr. Blakely received two Master of Education Degrees, from Harvard University (1982) and Teachers College, Columbia University (1983), and a Doctor of Education Degree from Teachers College (1990). She graduated from the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary College in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Religious Studies. She has published scholarly and popular books and articles on self-reliance, education, recreation and culture. A life-long student and practitioner of the visual arts, music, dance, modeling, law, business, and social work, she enjoys traveling the world and working to eliminate poverty.









## JOY P. CRICHLOW

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Joy Crichlow is the second of five girls. She attended Ardenne High School in Kingston and migrated to the United States to seek further education. Joy Crichlow attended New York University where she attained both BS and MS degrees. She taught at the Board of Education, New York University, Pratt Institute, and The City University.

In 1971, she joined Con Edison as a Consumer Affairs Representative. In this position, Ms. Crichlow implemented one of New York City's first pre-occupancy tenant education programs. She won the American Gas Association Award for "Community Programs" which was shared with other urban cities. This program was designed to educate new immigrants and low income families about their responsibility to their community and family. It also focussed on the family's responsibility in helping to provide a healthy clean environment. Over 600 low and moderate income families, who were prospective tenants to new city and private housing, attended the eight session series on tenant education. For this outstanding program, she also received many certificates of appreciation.

In developing the East New York section of Brooklyn, which was burnt out in the late 1960's, Ms. Crichlow worked with the East New York Development Corp., in rehabilitating the single-family houses and working with the families who were new owners. Over 30 single-family houses were rehabilitated as a pilot project for restoring an old neighborhood.

Ms. Crichlow also worked with New York City's Department of Relocation. Here she instructed families who were living in welfare hotels on how to care for their families in a limited environment. Emphasis was placed on nurturing children within the family environment.

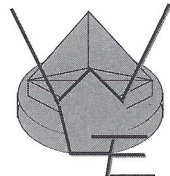
In 1979, Ms. Crichlow assumed management of Con Edison Minority Business Program. She has carried out all aspects of this position in an exceptional manner, demonstrating uncommon creativity in enhancing the program's visibility and appeal. Since Joy became Director, Purchasing's expenditures to minority firms increased from approximately \$3 million, to over \$47 million within five years. This dramatic rise can be credited to her innovative approach to the challenge at hand. For example, when she took over the program, she implemented a series of "Open Houses" enabling vendors to meet with Company officials in an informal atmosphere, while gaining a better understanding of Con Edison and the goods and services it seeks. At the time, she instituted a series of seminars for Purchasing Agents. These seminars stressed sensitivity to those working with minority business people and the vital role the Buyer plays in making minority business a part of the American Economy. Ms. Crichlow was responsible for Con Edison implementing a ten-day payment plan to minority businesses and establishing an outreach program for vendors in technical areas.

### Contributions and Achievement in Industry and Profession

Among her many achievements, Ms. Crichlow served as Chairperson of the New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council, a board member for the Association of Minority Enterprises of New York (AMENY), a board member of Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), and the Flatbush YMCA of Greater New York, to name a few.

Recently, Ms. Crichlow co-chaired the National Med Week Conference in Washington, D.C., which was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the late Secretary Ronald H. Brown.

In spite of her numerous corporate responsibilities, Ms. Crichlow has procured and restored a number of old buildings. Whether it be with the over 400 vendors in her program, her 40 tenants or her 21 year old daughter, to whom she is a single parent, Ms. Crichlow finds it extremely rewarding just helping people.









## Cynthia Carrington-Murray

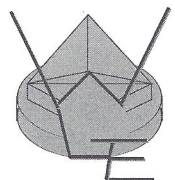
Cynthia Carrington-Murray, RN, MS, is the Senior Vice President of the North Brooklyn Health Network (NBHN); one of the seven vertically integrated healthcare networks of New York City and Hospitals Corporation. The Network's delivery system includes primary, specialty and acute care services with an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion. The Network's fifteen sites include: Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center, a 428 bed acute care facility; seven Child Health Clinics that offer traditional public health and pediatric primary care services; two comprehensive Diagnostic and Treatment Centers; two Community Health Centers; two School-Based Health Centers; and a part time clinic. Annually, the Network provides over 450,000 clinic visits, 200,000 primary care visits, 67,000 emergency room visits and 18,000 discharges. Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center operates three freestanding residency training programs in Internal Medicine, Primary Care Pediatrics and Dentistry.

A dynamic and personable leader, Cynthia Carrington-Murray brings over twenty years of progressive leadership to the formidable task of interpreting NBHN's mission, vision and goals. A strong advocate of community health, she imbues her work with vigor, compassion and a keen understanding of the needs of the North Brooklyn community.

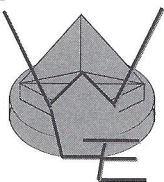
Cynthia Carrington-Murray's career in health care began as a diploma nurse in her native Trinidad. After relocating to the United States, she was awarded an MS in Community Health Administration from Long Island University, where she presently serves as a Director on the Board of the Nursing Program. At Woodhull, Ms. Carrington-Murray moved through the ranks, assuming increasing responsibility for major units and services. A Fellow of the National Association of Public Hospitals and an Associate of the American College of Healthcare Executives, she has received numerous awards of excellence from professional and civic organizations. She is a member of the Board of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Nurses Association of America, Inc. and President of the East 45<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association.

Published in the areas of differentiated nursing practice and cultural diversity, Cynthia Carrington-Murray has presented at local, national and international conferences on a variety of nursing and management topics.

A longtime resident of Brooklyn, she shares a home with her husband, Rainer and two daughters, Camille and Kamika.









## Carol Diane Sydnor

Carol Diane Sydnor was born and raised in Yonkers, New York. In 1970 she relocated to Norwalk, Connecticut and in 1996 moved to Stamford, Connecticut. Although she has no children of her own she is the proud godmother of 16 children and 7 grand-gods. She is fondly referred to as the "woman in the shoe". She has always had a love and passion for young people. She has provided love, shelter and refuge in her home for more than 10 children/families, personally taking on the care and responsibility for many of them. As a servant of the Lord, Ms. Sydnor is committed to serving others.

In 1971 she started the "Touch of class Troupe" a youth group designed to keep youth in school and out of trouble, while imparting pride and personal development in them. She was vice president of "Becoming Of Age", a youth group designed to assist youth through the passage of their pre-teens to young adulthood. Her other involvement's include: Vice President of "Woman Holding On" a women's support group; Recording Secretary and a founding member of the Stamford Chapter of the Coalition of 100 Black Women; Secretary of the Multi- Ethnic Inner City Club; Acting Secretary for the Wentfield Park Association, a non-profit association for the Hispanic and Black community in Bridgeport, CT; a Member of a volunteer group which provided sandwiches and snacks for the homeless shelter in Norwalk, CT.

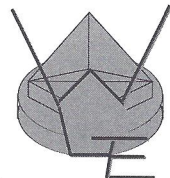
Carol has been a faithful member of Miracle Temple C.O.G.I.C. since 1981, her pastor is Rev. Dr. Joseph D. Clemmons, Sr., State Representative for the 140<sup>th</sup> District in Norwalk, Connecticut. Since her membership she has served as trustee, Commentator for the TV broadcast, member of the Gospel Choir. And currently serves as Vice President of the Woman's Department and Financial Secretary. She is also a member of a daily prayer group for woman.

Carol was in the Substance Abuse field for 14-1/2 years as Finance Director. She has been very vocal in the fight against substance abuse. She's taken a pro-active role in speaking up for youth and women's issues in that area. She serves as Treasurer for the Connecticut Certification Board, which certifies substance abuse counselors.

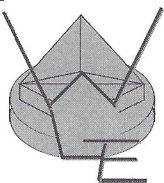
In 1980 Carol was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis.. Five years later, in an acute stage of the illness, she was given two years to live. Since giving up was not part of her vocabulary, she decided to fulfill a long overdue dream and goal.... she was going back to school to get her degree. While working full-time and struggling with this life threatening illness, Carol drove 810 miles each month to obtain her BS degree in Human Services from New Hampshire College. She had surgery immediately after completing her studies which prevented her from attending the graduation ceremonies. So in cap and gown and on crutches she held a private ceremony at home with family and friends.

Carol continued to work until 1994 when the illness rendered her disabled. Although disabled she continued to counsel, volunteer and further educate herself. After 4-1/2 years she decided, enough is enough and without her doctors approval, she took a giant leap of faith and returned to the workforce. She is currently employed with Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern Connecticut, based in the City of Stafford, as Finance Director. She is an Accredited Residential Manager Applicant, a Certified Homebuyer, Educator/Trainer and coordinator of the Association's Homeownership Initiative Program. Before joining the staff Carol was a board member and chaired the Resident Selection Committee.

In 1989, Carol founded 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Institute for Personal Development. The Institute was established to provide a stepping stone on the pathway to self-discovery and of the power, wisdom and strength that lies within. She has provided individual and group counseling to women in "Alternative to Incarceration" programs; Women and children in substance abuse recovery programs; self-esteem support groups and individual counseling. An affiliate of QKingdom Ministries, Inc, 2<sup>nd</sup> chance Ministries. provides the following services: religious education program; sponsor to orphanages; retreats for children etcetera. Carol's main objective is to be in the will and service of the Lord, by extending a helping hand to those in need.









## Archbishop Pura Virginia Taylor

Archbishop Pura Virginia Taylor was born on June 1, 1939 in the Island of Grenada. She migrated to the United Kingdom at age 18 where she, like her older sisters, pursued a successful nursing career. She later migrated to the United States where she maintained her profession as a nurse.

Archbishop Taylor, who has been in ministry for more than twenty-nine years, is the founder and pastor of St Anne's Shrine Spiritual Baptist Church in Islip New York. Her Grace was crowned Supreme Exalted Episcopate Mother by the late Arch Prelate Charles Digilio of the World Federation of Free Episcopate Churches on November 23, 1988.

The life of Archbishop Taylor is exemplified by her multi-cultural ministry. She ministers with a great deal of love, humility and humanity. Her daily chores include visiting the sick in her capacity as a nurse. In addition to ministering from the medical perspective, she uses some of this time to pray and give words of comfort to those who request it of her. Archbishop Taylor believes that when you "give freely to others you will receive in abundance from God."

On the spiritual pathway Archbishop Taylor has ordained ministers, deacons, evangelists and missionaries. In her quiet unassuming way, she has been feeding the poor and homeless for the past 24 years.

Through ministry and her positive expounding of the Word of God, many of her members have had the vision to fulfill their professional dreams and are making tremendous contributions to the communities in which they reside.

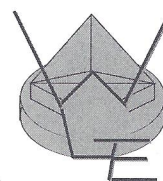
Archbishop Taylor is one of the founding members the West Indian American Achievers Club, Inc. a not-for-profit organization that, since its inception, has given over \$20,000 in scholarship funds to deserving youth.

She has a diversified background being trained as a classical pianist at an early age. In her earlier years she toured the United States and Canada as a keyboard player in a dance band. It was during one of these tours that she heard a voice telling her "this is not for you anymore." She immediately obeyed the voice and went from touring with the dance band to playing the organ in various churches where she was known as 'Sister Pura.'

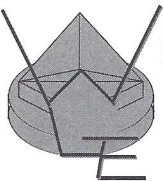
Archbishop Taylor successfully completed a bible study program with the Rosicrucian Order and received a certificate of completion. She is currently a student of Divinity at Holy Trinity Seminary.

Married to William Taylor for over 30 years, this union produced two lovely children. William, Jr., a communications Specialist, and Keisha, an educator and Guidance Counselor.

Since making her decision to follow Jesus, Archbishop Taylor has not looked back, because, according to her belief, "looking back is sudden death, but pressing forward leads to eternal life."









## Iyanla Vanzant

### Woman of Great Esteem Award of Excellence Honoree

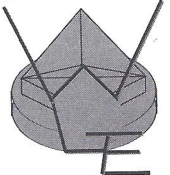
Some people will tell you that Iyanla Vanzant is a speaker in a class all her own. For 18 years she studied everyone and everything that spoke to personal strength, personal growth and empowerment. She then integrated that information into her own experiences and developed a common sense approach for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

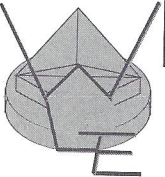
Still others say she is a spiritual visionary. Iyanla's commitment to the spiritual evolution of humanity, particularly women and children, is evidenced by her tireless efforts on behalf of those who are battered, homeless or seeking deliverance from alcohol and substance addiction.

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.









## Lydia Theodora Whiteman

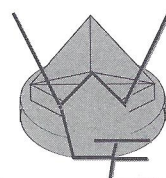
Lydia Theodora Whiteman was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1940, in the rural village of La Tante St. David's on a tiny island in the Eastern Caribbean called Grenada. She is the eight child of a family of ten, born to Iris and Reginald Purcell. She received her primary education at the Crochu Roman Catholic School from the tender age of 4 years. Lydia walked over a mile to school at that young age accompanied by her older brothers and sisters, always smiling and cheerful; the burning sun did not deter her even at that young age. She was always eager to learn and loved school. At 17 she sat and passed the School Leaving examination and was immediately asked to be a relief teacher. In 1958, she was appointed primary school teacher at the St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School. In 1962 she immigrated to the United Kingdom, a journey which lasted three weeks. Although the journey and future were unknown she looked forward in anticipation to a brighter future.

On her journey to England, by some coincidence, she met and shared the same cabin with her penfriend. Neither had been aware of the fact that the other was going to England, so you could imagine their amazement when they introduced themselves. As a young teenager Lydia always had a burning desire to help others especially the less fortunate in society, so she joined a religious faction of the Catholic Church, The St. Agnes Guild. Her responsibilities involved visiting the sick and elderly doing their shopping, cleaning their homes, their environment and playing with the younger children. Later she went on to join the Legion of Mary. Lydia was a keen sportsperson and took part in sporting activities including netball and athletics.

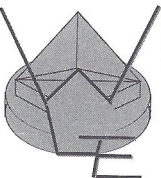
On arriving in England she went into the nursing profession and qualified in both general and psychiatric nursing and was soon after appointed a staff nurse. Within six months she took on the position of a ward sister, a position she held for many years before returning to her homeland Grenada. She also did a number of in-service management courses. In 1974 Lydia attended the East Surrey Technical College and did a diploma course in Nutrition in Relation to Catering and Cooking. She is also a member of the Royal Society of Health. Lydia got married to her childhood sweetheart in 1964 she gave birth to four children; Paul, Paula, Paulina and Joslyn Paul Junior. Lydia and her husband, The Honorable Joslyn Witheman have always worked together as a team, and when her husband entered active politics in 1989 she became his campaign manager. She is now the chairman of his constituency branch.

Lydia possesses a special gift to work with people, she has no inhibitions whatsoever when it comes to approaching anyone and getting her messages across. She has organized work groups in every village in St. David's and meets with them on a regular basis. Apart from these meetings she also holds frequent workshops with her groups. She arranges home visits, delivers clothing, foodstuffs, and beds for the poor and elderly. Lydia has been seen at times travelling on the back of a lorry delivering used galvanize to the poor and needy. She leads by example, and she leads from the front!

Lydia arranges beach clean ups and mobilizes the community to come out on a Saturday to get involved and she is usually seen with them cleaning the La Sagesse and La Tante beaches. Lydia is also an ardent farmer and apart from growing vegetables, she also runs a livestock farm of over 100 pigs and piglets. She works as a gender coordinator, and she recently took on a new project, which aims at reducing poverty in some of the rural areas. She has organised a number of persons from the villages in forming a co-operative. The project consists of agricultural and horticultural farming with a view to Agro processing. Lydia has dedicated her herself to helping the less fortunate and sees this as her role in the community.









## Jeanette R. Grant Woodham

Jeanette Grant Woodham, I.P., M.A. Is a Jamaican who has over twenty (20) years experience in the public & private sectors. She is an educator by profession and is competent in the areas of educational administration, manpower development and training, public administration and community leadership.

She is currently the project officer for the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit at the University of the West Indies. Her contributions to the nation include:

- Lectureship in English and Linguistics at teacher training colleges,
- Information Officer at the Embassy of Jamaica, Washington DC,
- Folklore Research Officer - Institute of Jamaica
- Principal, Industrial Training Center and Cultural Project Manager
- Principal of Tivoli Gardens Comprehensive High School
- Project developer and consultant to L.E.A.P. (Learning for Earning Activity Programme), (Programme for "street children")
- Executive Director of the Jamaican Institute of Management (J.I.M.)

Her record as a pioneer in the areas of politics and education include many firsts as a woman:

- Deputy President of Senate
- President of Senate
- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Trade & Industry
- Executive Director of the Jamaican Institute of Management

In the area of woman's issues, her track record is no less significant as a leader in the national & regional discourse on gender issues. She was Executive Director of Caribbean Woman for Democracy and Chairperson, National Advisory Council on Woman. Mrs. Grant Woodham is a certified trainer by the Institute of Public Leadership. She was the leader of Jamaica's delegation to Nairobi - United Nations Conference at the end of decade for Women and worked on the National Preparatory Committee for the Beijing Conference. She served as a member of the Prime Minister's Taskforce for the Gender Equity Commission.

- She will tell you that she considers the zenith of her career was when she delivered Jamaica's Policy statement to the United Nations on its 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.
- In 1989 she gave the challenge to the Business & Professional Women's Club of St Andrew to form WOMAN'S Political Caucus of which she is a founding member and chief trainer.

Mrs. Grant Woodham has received various civic awards in community development, culture and the arts. She was awarded Woman of Distinction in the area of Politics in 1987 by the BUREAU OF Women's Affairs. Her special interests are human development, the arts, and the study of herbs and precious stones.

