



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA  
Ministry of Social Development and Sports

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

# SENIOR CITIZENS' 2016 *Biographies*



SENIORS: BERMUDA'S TREASURES





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Ministry of Social Development and Sports  
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# FOREWORD FROM THE MINISTER



## SENIORS: BERMUDA'S TREASURES

It has been said that youth is a gift wasted on the young, however I believe that age is a gift that brings with it every virtue necessary to hold a society together, namely - patience, foresight and humility.


Bermuda's seniors certainly exemplify all of these qualities, and I am delighted to offer my sentiments of thanks to those individuals being honoured this year for all that they have taught us and continue to teach us.

Many of this year's honourees have shown a consistent and compassionate desire to be of service to others; not because they feel they should, but because they take pride and pleasure in doing so. For so many of them, giving back to the community is intrinsic to their nature, leaving indelible imprints on the lives that they touch with their charity and wisdom.

The Government is proud to showcase the highlights and accomplishments of our country's seniors, and to continue to lend our support to the generation that weathered great challenges to deliver the Bermuda we

have and love today. Through our programmes and services for seniors, we aim to show our appreciation and respect for this stalwart generation that keeps giving us so much even to this day.

On behalf of the Government of Bermuda, I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to this year's honourees. Not only have they served as upstanding role models in our community, but they are outstanding Bermudians as well, and an example to how we should all be when we reach our Golden Years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sylvan Richards", written over a horizontal line.

THE HON. SYLVAN RICHARDS, JP, MP  
MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS



# *Proclamation*

## SENIORS AWARDS CEREMONY

### **WHEREAS:**

The United Nations in 1982 convened at a World Assembly to highlight the fact that the number of people aged 60 and over is the fastest growing population in the world, and

### **WHEREAS:**

The ageing of nations is an inevitable consequence of development which creates higher standards of living, better nutrition and improved health care, and

### **WHEREAS:**

In Bermuda as of July 2016, there is a population aged 65 years and over of 10,696 people in receipt of a contributory benefit, and

### **WHEREAS:**

The Government will continue to enhance the quality of life of our senior citizens and recognise the valuable experience, wisdom, insight, and knowledge that our seniors bring to the community, and

### **WHEREAS:**

The Government recognises that because our seniors are an important link with our past and integral to the development of a wholesome community of the future, their contribution to Bermuda should never be overlooked, and

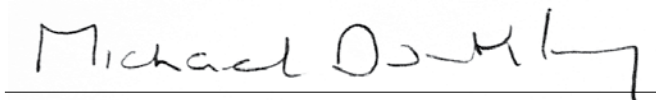
**WHEREAS:**

The restructuring of Bermuda's rest homes and long term care facilities will provide a safe, comfortable and healthy living environment for our seniors who need it most,

**NOW THEREFORE:** I, the Honourable Michael Dunkley, JP MP, Premier of Bermuda do hereby proclaim that Bermuda recognises and celebrates the work, worth, and importance of the Older Person on this day, 25 September 2016; a day when we honour Bermuda's Seniors and celebrate them with the theme, "Seniors: Bermuda's Treasures"

Be it also known that the United Nations has declared 1 October 2016 as the International Day of the Older Persons.

I urge all residents to solemnly affirm their support and respect for all senior citizens living in these islands. Let us encourage a reverence for life and awareness of the needs of the elderly and work to improve the quality of life for all people in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dunkley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

THE HON. MICHAEL DUNKLEY, JP, MP  
PREMIER OF BERMUDA

# Contents

## *Centenarians*

Mrs. Kathlyn Dyer .....	8
Mrs. Olivette Burch Morris .....	10
Mr. Lefroy B. Place .....	12
Mrs. Ismay Steede .....	14
Mrs. Theresa Leonora Trott .....	16
Mrs. Iris Williams .....	18
Mrs. Mary Williams .....	20

## *Special Couples*

Rev. Malcolm & Mrs. Elvia Eve .....	22
Mr. Gladwin "Doc" & Mrs. Lillian Hall .....	24
Mr. Harry & Mrs. Vera Trott .....	26

## *Seniors*

Mrs. Mary Burchall .....	28
Mrs. Barbara-Jean Burgess .....	30
Mrs. Margarita Crofton .....	32
Mr. Charles MacDonald Marshall .....	34
Mrs. Marie Ming .....	36



Mrs. Yvonne Pearson .....	38
Mrs. Phyllis Pedro .....	40
Mrs. Audrey L. Pitcher .....	42
Mrs. Grace L. Pitcher .....	44
Mr. Vernon Ivor Grant Rawlins .....	46
Mr. E. R. Leroy “Tubby” Richardson.....	48
Mrs. Joan Eleanor Roberts.....	50
Mrs. Brenda Saunders .....	52
Mrs. Carolyn Jean Todd .....	54
Mrs. Lois Lorraine Weeks .....	56
Ms. Cora Virginia Wilson, MBE .....	58



# Mrs. Kathlyn Dyer

Kathlyn Marion Dyer was born in Warwick on February 11, 1916 to Charles and Olive Rayner. She was the fifth of seven children and grew up on Morgan's Road in Warwick, where she and her siblings would play in the nearby expansive fields and visit their grandmother on Cobb's Hill Road. She came from a family that loved music and dancing, and often cycled with her siblings from their home in Warwick to Somerset, dressed in full evening attire, to attend the spectacular big-band dances.

She attended Paget Glebe School, and then became an apprentice to Martha Furbert, a dressmaker in Washington Lane. Mrs. Dyer developed into quite the accomplished dressmaker and tailor over the years. One of her earliest clients, however, was Lady Mary Cubitt, wife of Governor Thomas Cubitt. Mrs. Dyer would cycle from Hamilton to Government House to do fittings, and recalls the LCCA founder as a kind and considerate woman who made her feel comfortable.

At age 17, her older sister insisted that Mrs. Dyer accompany her to a garden party. She attended reluctantly, but as fate would have it, she met her future husband, Leslie Dyer, amidst the flowers. They married at St. Mary's Church in Warwick four years later and remained happily married for 67 years until he passed away. Following her marriage, she worked from home designing clothes, including numerous wedding gowns: nothing was too difficult for her to sew.

Working from home also allowed her to take care of her 7 children: 4 sons and 3 daughters. She and her husband always stressed to their children the importance of education, responsibility, and diligent goal-setting. She is incredibly proud that all of her children are accomplished professionals, a testament to the values instilled in them from a young age. She now has 18 grandchildren (2 deceased) and 21 great-grandchildren, and thoroughly enjoys spending time with them.

A resourceful woman, she is a life member and former volunteer of the Red Cross and worked diligently in various roles at the Wesley Methodist Church, becoming the first Black president of the United Church Women's. She also helped to develop Howard Academy. A talented gardener, she enjoyed growing vegetables and had such beautiful flowers, they were always the ones used in church on Sundays.

Today, she still enjoys going to church when she is able, going on drives through sunny Bermuda, and spending time with her family, the accomplishment she is the most proud of.





# Mrs. Olivette Burch Morris

Olivette Burch Morris was born on October 18, 1916 and grew up in St. George's with her sister Ina Pitcher and brother Willard 'Bo' Burch. She is particularly fond of her baby brother, as she was old enough when he was born to help raise him along with her mother who stayed at home with the children.

Mrs. Morris attended Eaton School in St. George's and then proudly attended the Berkeley Institute. She believes in working diligently and was employed as a bookkeeper in the George Trott Carpenter Shop on North Shore until she was in her 70s.

She married Chesterfield Morris and they enjoyed a good life together until he passed away, but she remained incredibly proud of her Burch roots. While she did not have children of her own, she has a special relationship with her niece Sheila Burrows who grew up along with her.

She has spent her life incredibly dedicated to her church, Glebe Road Gospel Hall. She is fond of her church family and friends, and finds it gratifying to contribute to overseas Christian charities. Her unwavering faith also helped cultivate her true passion: music.

Raised in a musical family, she began playing piano at the age of 5, influenced by the music she heard in church. She was taught piano by Agatha Burgess, 'Busta' Richards, and Geoffrey Tankard. Wanting to

share her passion, she also taught piano and is very proud of her many students from over the years. Mrs. Morris was the first Black person in Bermuda to gain an eighth grade certificate in teaching music. She began playing the organ for her church as a teenager and continued well into her 90s, perched on the organ stool in a ladylike hat, ready to play.

Today, Mrs. Morris continues to tickle the ivories at Lefroy House. She shares a room with her sister and the nurses jokingly say that their room is where the party happens at night.





# Mr. Lefroy B. Place

Lefroy Place started working early. At age 13, he left school to take up work at a plumbing establishment. He stayed there for 3 or 4 years, learning and advancing in the trade.

Originally from Pembroke, he was born on St. John's Road as the eldest of five children. His family moved and they happily grew up on Ewing Street.

His father was the publisher of the Bermuda Recorder, and after working in the plumbing trade for some time, he went on to work with his father at the Recorder, learning about printing and publishing, even writing an editorial for the mid-week edition while there. Mr. Place stayed at the Recorder for some time, almost until the publication shuttered its doors. After that, he went on to work as a custodian at City Hall and then as a courier for the Mayor's Office in Hamilton, where he stayed employed for 30 years.

Outside of work, Mr. Place is an avid sports fan. He is partial to cricket, as it was a far more popular sport back in the day before football took over. Although he was never an athlete, not really having much time to dedicate to sports, he always supported and watched games whenever he could.

He was married when he was 24 years old to Marguerite Place, after meeting her in the

restaurant off the Recorder building where she worked. They had a son and two daughters, with a few grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even a couple of great-great-grandchildren in their family.

He recently celebrated his 100th birthday on July 24, and simply says that he is "loving life right now."





# Mrs. Ismay Steede

Like most human fixtures of St. George's, Ismay Steede is an integral part of the town she was born in and lived in for most of her life. Her commitment to the "olde towne" is so loyal that every year her sprawling family hosts a Thanksgiving dinner in her home on Duke of Clarence Street, which becomes so packed that people end up spilling over into the nearby alley. They have agreed that moving the event is simply not an option.

Mrs. Steede was born in St. George's in 1916, the youngest of four, to Frederick and Annie Ming. Her three siblings predeceased her but she continues to live vibrantly in their memory. Noel 'Bummy' Anderson, a Somerset man, was her first husband and father of her children. They moved briefly to Somerset, but she found her way back home to St. George's soon thereafter. He died suddenly of a heart attack. She found love again with Harold Steede, who passed away after more than 30 years of happy marriage.

She was schooled in St. George's before joining the work force at a young age. She eventually worked as a housekeeper over the years to a number of guesthouses.

She is the mother to 12 children: seven sons and five daughters - Reginald (Big Eats), Ruth, John, Alban (Alabama), Roselyn, Calvin (Nick), Leslie, Quillard,

Dorothy, Clifton, Francine and Phillip (Phoopa). She has 38 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, and 20 great-great grandchildren.

When she isn't spending time with one of her many family members, she's passionately playing a game of bingo, and more than likely, winning it.







# Mrs. Theresa Leonora Trott

Theresa Leonora Trott, lovingly known as Nora by her many friends and extended family was born on June 8, 1916. An only child, she spent her formative years in Smith's Hill, Pembroke.

As a young woman, she spent a lot of time with her grandmother and Papa Ben. When her mother remarried and moved to New York, Mrs. Trott used to visit them by boat. This began her love of travel and influenced the way she spent many of her later years.

When attending Excelsior School, she met her soulmate, Burton Trott. While she and her husband didn't have any children together, she loves her step-son deeply, as well as numerous special godchildren, nieces, and nephews. After they married, she moved to the Shelley Bay area where she and her husband owned several properties.

Prior to marriage, Mrs. Trott worked in a grocery store on Happy Valley Road. A deeply compassionate, kind, and caring woman, she also spent a lot of time working in a nursery school. Her goddaughter, Cleta Astwood, fondly recalls Mrs. Trott combing her hair and taking her to nursery, dedicated to ensuring that the children were well looked-after. Mrs. Trott helped to take care of and mentor many children from her extended family and circles of friends over the years.

Mr. Trott and Mrs. Trott uncovered a deep passion for travel. Mrs. Trott would often get a phone call from the travel agent and tell her to prepare herself – she was going away! She would sometimes pack without even knowing for sure where they were headed! They went on many tours across America and also owned property in Jamaica that they enjoyed visiting.

Mrs. Trott's caring nature also extends to the friendships that she made and cherished over the years. Her close friends were an important part of her life and included Elma Price Simons, Gloria Brown, Winnie Nolan, Beth Miller, and many others. One of her favourite hobbies is talking on the phone with friends.

Mrs. Trott loved gardening – it didn't matter what she planted, it would grow. She loved knitting, reading, and going on walks. She attended St. Augustine's Church in Smith's Hill during her youth but more recently has been attending and volunteering for the Holy Trinity Church in Hamilton Parish. She still enjoys visits with her minister.

A quietly strong, opinionated woman, she continues to enjoy chatting for hours during visits from her niece Millie Swainson, great-nephew Delbert Trott and his wife Dory, and many other godchildren, relatives, and friends.





# Mrs. Iris Williams

Iris Williams was born on September 26, 1916 and raised in Flatt's, the youngest of a sprawling family. Her mother carefully taught her about herbs and spices and as a child, she loved to play in the garden. One of her childhood friends, Harold Williams, also had a mother interested in natural remedies and though they met in primary school and grew up as friends, they eventually were happily married.

The passion for natural living was also instilled in her brother, marathon runner Sir Stanley Burgess who used herbal remedies for his aching muscles.

Mrs. Williams' love of herbs helped her forge a career as a private chef for the Zuill family and others, giving all of her dishes a signature blend of delicious, locally-foraged spices. Mrs. Williams' 6 children always looked forward to Christmas meals that were bountiful and delicious. Committed to homemade and home-grown, she would grow and grate cassava root for her cassava pie and even made cranberry sauce from scratch. Each of her children cherishes a book of handwritten secret recipes and she is incredibly proud that they all grew up to have a love for cooking.

With a fisherman for a husband and 6 children, Mrs. Williams' home always had a delicious aroma wafting from the door before you entered. She liked hosting people in the family homestead and always encouraged her children to bring friends over.

She enjoyed spending time with her late husband on the boat that he made for them, inviting the

entire family to unwind with them over the Cup Match holidays. She is a committed grandparent and never missed an occasion for her 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Today, she enjoys singing and ever-committed to her faith, loves reciting scriptures.

Mrs. Williams often cautioned her family that while they enjoyed her delectable paw paw casserole, they had to drink the water the paw paws were boiled in to avoid getting high blood pressure. Perhaps this commitment to natural remedies is the secret to her longevity.





# Mrs. Mary Williams

Mary Williams was born in February 1916, and spent her early childhood in Prospect. Her mother, Ellen Edmead, was a housekeeper to a captain and his family, and then to a major and his wife. Her mother died when she was 10 years old and she moved to Smith's to live with the Peets family, relatives of her mother. They were very kind to her, and her foster parents, Geraldine and George Peets, were a great inspiration in her life.

She went to Elliot Primary School, where six teachers taught the children in the tiny Jubilee Road schoolhouse. She went to high school in the Sunday school of the Bethel Church. She always had trouble with spelling because she picked up an English accent while living in Prospect and then had trouble understanding the Bermudian accent. After leaving school, she learned bookkeeping at Robinson's Haberdashery Shop on Court Street and Adam's Meat Market on Angle Street. She also ran her own dress design business on Parliament Street for many years.

In 1943, she married Treadwell Williams, the steward at the Hamilton Dinghy Club. They had two sons, Lloyd and Michael. Unfortunately, after only five years of marriage Treadwell was killed in a cycle accident.

Thankfully she was able to fall back on her

dressmaking and tailoring skills to support her small family. At one time she taught evening sewing at the Girls Institute of Arts and Crafts at Alaska Hall. Many of her students were young girls who had been unable to get into The Berkeley Institute.

After teaching, she spent 18 years with the Bermuda Post Office and was one of the first women of colour to be hired. Her next 18 years were spent at Astwood Dickinson's. After her retirement in 1976, she became part of a fledgling committee to create the Senior's Learning Centre.

She is proud that she still takes care of herself. "Through no strength of my own, but by the grace of God," she said. She loves gardening and is always anxious to get outside when the weather is right. She attends St. Mary's Church in Warwick and has been honoured by them twice.

She has six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. They often come around to see her, when their schedules permit. She believes that keeping busy is the secret to a long life.





# Rev. Malcolm & Mrs. Elvia Eve

Malcolm Eve is no stranger to the unexpected changes that pop up in life. He started out initially as an apprentice in Dockyard as a ship fitter at 15 years old. After a year in the position, he was sent to Portsmouth in the United Kingdom for four years as an apprentice mechanic. Having never been off island and away from his family, the post in Portsmouth was an interesting change of pace for him as he experienced such a different culture. He didn't return to Bermuda for two and a half years, when he finally got holiday time to travel home.

While in Portsmouth, he had a stint at the BBC after winning a contest playing bass with his band. They were called *The Bermuda Four*, named so, because they were four Bermudians. After his short tenure in Portsmouth, he returned to Bermuda and worked at the shop now known as Marine Imports, subsequently moving to Meyer Machine Shop in St. George's.

Like previous parts of his life, Malcolm became Reverend Malcolm just by taking a chance. Having accepted Jesus into his life in 1964, he began taking classes years later in Bermuda, as a Junior in the A.M.E. conference. He was appointed as a Reverend to St. Philip Church, where he served for 10 years. He later moved to Bethel A.M.E.

In 1975, Malcolm met Elvia at a dance at number 6 shed on Front Street. He remembers the night clearly, "My eyes fell on her, and we had a dance." Unfortunately for him, a different gentleman had brought Elvia to the dance and was planning on being the one to deliver her home. After a small

amount of bravado was expressed, Malcolm ultimately was the one to deliver Elvia to her doorstep, and they were married the following year.

Elvia Eve was born to Louisa and Arthur Pemberton, the youngest of seven children. She worked at the American Base for 40 years. On an A.M.E. group trip to Livingstone, Zambia, she noticed that the children were in need of an education. Upon her return to Bermuda, she began fundraising to open a pre-school for the local students. The Mother Eve School has now expanded to include a primary and high school and has several classrooms, a science lab, a computer lab, and over 400 students. While the school was named in her honour, she chose to donate the funds that a visit would cost and has not returned since her initial trip.

Since her retirement, she has volunteered at the Women's Resource Centre. She enjoys keeping fit, and going on walks. Mrs. Eve has two very special goddaughters, Marissa Sharpe and Linda Outerbridge, and an adopted granddaughter, Yolanda Dyer, who she loves spending time with.

With Reverend and Mrs. Eve both now fully retired, their favourite activity is sitting on the porch and looking at the water, enjoying each other's company. This June, they celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. Rev. Eve expressed how his wife's love has always helped him, "She has always supported me, no matter what it is that I was doing."







# Mr. Gladwin “Doc” & Mrs. Lillian Hall

Lillian Hall, nee Wingood, was born and raised in Somerset. She attended nursery school at the St. James Church Hall, which was operated by Ms. Mary Phillips and Ms. Sylvia Lee.

Always a Somerset girl, it was quite the surprise that she would meet, fall in love with, and marry a St. George’s man. Gladwin Hall was introduced to her when she was 19 years old. Today they’re celebrating 63 years of marriage, one daughter, and three grandchildren all the while coexisting in their opposing island team affiliations.

After marriage, Mrs. Hall worked in the mortgage department at the Bank of Butterfield, before moving to Shell Oil Company where she stayed for over 20 years in the accounts department as an accounts administrator. Throughout this time, she and her husband began to purchase property. Out of this venture they opened Hall’s Coffee Shop in St. George’s, which Mr. Hall operated after retirement. They later purchased a big property in St. George’s that became a lady’s clothing store, which Mrs. Hall operated for 17 years. Now retired, she runs Lilly-Anne’s, her own guest housing units.

In contrast to his wife of 63 years, Mr. Hall was born and raised in St. George’s. He left Bermuda when he was 16 years old in the merchant navy as a seaman where he travelled to numerous countries.

Upon his return, he enrolled in the Bermuda Police Force, and during his training attended Bishopgarth Police Training College in Wakefield, Yorkshire and South Police Institute at the University of Louisville, Kentucky in 1967 & 1975 respectively. While in the force he received the Colonial Police Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. He served as a police officer until his retirement.

Post-retirement Mr. Hall worked in Hall’s Coffee Shop that he proudly managed with his wife. They live in St. George’s where their Cup Match rivalry still runs strong.





# Mr. Harry & Mrs. Vera Trott

Harry Trott was born on North Shore, Pembroke in Government Gate as the eldest of 5 siblings. He grew up in Devonshire, on Jubilee Road, spending most of his childhood and adolescence there. Harry didn't follow the traditional trajectory of young people. He didn't finish school but instead decided to work with his father as a plumber, a trade which he still practices today, albeit in a semi-retired form.

After working as a plumber for many years in his father's business, Harry married Ruth Tuzo, with whom he had three children. After her passing, it was many years before he found love again, but he did eventually in the form of his second wife Mrs. Vera Trott.

Vera Trott was born and grew up on Cedar Hill, Warwick. She attended Purvis Primary School. She worked in her uncle's restaurant as a young woman, which would eventually serve as practice for the business that she started and owned with her first husband. Ingham's Lunch Wagon used to service the Warwick region, often near Warwick Camp, until eventually relocating to Warwick Secondary School.

After losing her first husband, she didn't think she'd ever marry again, but love showed itself in the form of Harry Trott. Romantically, he asked for permission from her sister for her hand in marriage

before officially proposing to her. They were married in 2001 and have raised their combined family of four adult children ever since.

Harry and Vera Trott have already been married for 15 years but are still immersed in love and dedicated to spending time together. An evening ritual of theirs is to go by the waterfront every night, under the moonlight, in each other's company.





# Mrs. Mary Burchall

Mary Burchall was born and raised in Loyal Hill Devonshire. She spent most of her early days there until she moved to Warwick.

When she was young, she worked at Rolly's Restaurant and Bar as a short order cook, making hamburgers and French fries for hungry customers. One hungry customer was her future husband David, who would frequent the establishment to "sit on a stool and watch her cook." After they were married, they relocated to Warwick.

With her experience in cooking she is known for being an exceptional cook and baker. Her weekends are spent filling orders of birthday cakes, wedding cakes, and cookies for family, friends, and colleagues.

For a while, Mrs. Burchall diverted from the culinary field and worked in the Post Office for 15 years only to return to cooking for the Salvation Army's night shelter on Parson's Road. She would fix breakfast at 7 AM for everyone who came through the doors of Salvation Army, where she was known as "Mama Mary". She cited her experience as "one of the best and most enjoyable jobs" she has ever had. Ensuring that people were fed, satisfied and happy provided a certain fulfilment within her.

While no longer cooking and baking as often as she

would like, Mrs. Burchall enjoys her retirement in her home on Mary June Hill, a place surrounded by luscious trees, which she admires and is grateful for every day.





# Mrs. Barbara-Jean Burgess

Mrs. Barbara-Jean Burgess is no stranger to moving around. Born in Paget as the eldest of 9 siblings, she lived in Bermuda until just after high school, moving to Seaside, California at 18 to live with her family. Her eldest son was born on the largest naval base in California. They eventually moved back home to Bermuda for a short stint, and lived in Southampton with her grandmother and she welcomed her second son. When her sons were a bit older, she moved her small family back to California so that her sons could attend elementary school there.

Mrs. Burgess's life's ambition at the time was to become a teacher. While in Lemoore, California she pursued her dream, working as a teacher's assistant at Island Elementary School. She stayed there for about a year before moving her family to Nelson, British Columbia, where her sons were the first Black students at the local elementary school. They ended up moving again, to Philadelphia for a short time, before finally relocating back to Bermuda where her sons attended school.

Upon their return, Mrs. Burgess worked briefly at The Paraquet as a waitress. She then secured employment with the Bermuda Telephone Company where she stayed for 33 years, until retirement, starting out as an operator and ending up as the supervisor of her department..

Concurrently, she enrolled in the Adult Education School with the encouragement of Merle Robinson, to continue her studies in Maths & English. After

completion of the program, she stayed as an aide to help other students study and learn.

While she may not have become a teacher, she did stay true to her ambition of helping students learn, volunteering in Francis Patton Primary's reading program and even starting her own home tutoring for students in need.

Her mother, Sylvia-Mae Hudgeon, returned to school and graduated at 75 years old with a Master's Degree in Art. Inspired by this example, Mrs. Burgess enrolled at Bermuda College and gained a certificate in Managerial Studies, getting straight A's through her program.

Now fully retired, she's self-described as, "the only person with a cell phone that still can't be reached," as she's simply too busy. She belongs to three dance groups: St. John's AME's Latreuo, AME Conference Dancers, and the Community Dance Group. She even danced in the AME Annual General Conference this past July in Philadelphia.

She spends her time with her 4 sons, 8 granddaughters, 1 grandson, and 1 great-grandson. Always active, she laughs that she, "ain't got no time to sit up in no rocking chair." More than likely, she's somewhere on the move.







# Mrs. Margarita Crofton

Margarita Crofton was born in 1933 in Paget. She lives on Lover's Lane in the third of the seven sister's homes. She spent a lot of time helping to care for her grandfather while growing up which would plant the seed for her eventual work in elder care.

Margarita married Raymond Crofton in 1952 and had five children, eventually having several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

As a member of the Somerset Seventh Day Adventist church, Mrs. Crofton served as one of the leaders of the Pathfinder's Youth Group. She chaperoned the young members on camping trips to Paget Island, on holiday weekends, and even overseas.

She worked in the hotel industry for many years, doing domestic work at the Reefs Hotel in Warwick and then various guesthouses. In a career switch, she began to work at Lefroy House as a nursing attendant or geriatric aide. After spending years as a young person caring for her grandfather, she found her calling in caring for others. She passed her Geriatric Aide Certificate for Nursing with flying colours. Coincidentally, this was completed at the same time as her eldest son, Derek Crofton, who inherited her compassion for elders. Both of them became nursing attendants together. She stayed

in this post for twenty years, only finishing with retirement.

Now completely retired, she spends time with her family, most notably her kids, who are always around to drive her anywhere, anytime she needs a chauffeur.





# Mr. Charles McDonald Jimmy Marshall

Mr. Charles McDonald Jimmy Marshall was born on January 1, 1937 and was married to Mrs. Mary Ann Marshall (nee Gibbons) for fifty years until her passing on November 10, 2011.

Out of this union were born five children: Latanya (husband Damon Simmons), Judy (husband Kevin Darrell), Beverly, Charlie, and Patrice. He is the most lovable Papa of 12 grandchildren and he cherishes his 17 great grandchildren.

Mr. Marshall began his employment at sixteen years old at the Kindley Air Force Base in St. George's and remained there for five years. He then worked as an apprentice with Mr. Eddie Simons in the field of construction for about twenty years, working all over the island and building many beautiful homes.

After years gaining valuable experience, he was encouraged to start his own business. He has spent his life heavily involved in community work, building homes and churches. He also spent a lot of time in the church as the handy man.

Mr. Marshall has been a member of St. John AME Church in Bailey's Bay for over fifty years and has served on the Trustee Board and Usher Board. He still sings with the senior and male voice choirs, and his favourite songs are "Holding my Saviour's Hand" by Mahalia Jackson, and "I Will Trust in the

Lord 'Til I Die".

He is lovingly known by a host of monikers: Mr. Marshall, Brother Marshall, Uncle Jimmy, Pops, Daddy, and Papa. Mr. Marshall enjoys his retirement walking and taking bus rides around the island and most of all relaxing watching his favourite Westerns on television.

His favourite scripture is Proverbs 3: 5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."





# Mrs. Marie Ming

There's something to be said about appreciating life to its fullest; Marie Ming knows about this. Having spent her early years moving around after suddenly losing her mother at the age of 14, she became accustomed to finding joy and relevance in what others may see as the minutia of life. Born on Dundonald Street in Hamilton and growing up in Hamilton, she was a self-proclaimed city girl. The youngest of three, she loved sports, especially track & field and running.

Mrs. Ming attended Central School and describes her childhood as being enjoyable, despite having grown up poor. One of her most beautiful experiences was attending the Arts & Crafts School at Alaska Hall on Court Street, between the ages of 16 and 18. At a time when there weren't many other schools to go to, she was able to learn sewing, speech, and other forms of domestic trade and etiquette.

While living in Devonshire with her godmother, Marie met John Ming, a young man who rode up behind her one day on a horse. They soon became a couple and were married shortly after. She raised 4 children and is a doting grandmother to 6 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

She began work in her late twenties in the field of retail, working for Mr. Custodio in his Church Street

dress shop. She's worked in a few dress shops around the island, eventually settling at Smith's.

More than anything, Mrs. Ming values the time spent with the friends she's been blessed to have. She spoke particularly fondly about one her closest friends, Prudence Elaine Astwood. They began school together at the age of 7 and continued to Central School, laughing that they were "joined at the hip." They became so close over the years that they even had a standing Tuesday date where they would visit different restaurants. Prudence would have been 85 this year, Marie recalls their friendship as something that was, "one of a kind, and one in a million, something you don't get every day." She continues to appreciate the special people and moments in her life while she has them.





# Ms. Yvonne Pearson

Yvonne Pearson was born in 1938 at the Prospect Cottage Hospital to hardworking and loving parents Harry and Muriel Francis. Although her mother worked two jobs for most of her life to keep a roof over the family's heads, her home was always spotless, and her cooking was second to none.

Ms. Pearson fondly recalls growing up with her three wonderful siblings; Ralph, Annette, and Dennis. A self-proclaimed "Warwick girl", she grew up on Cedar Hill surrounded by the Simons clan as neighbours, in the days when a neighbour came to the door to sell you a jug of milk or exchange produce from their garden.

She started school at Paget Glebe and then moved on to Purvis Primary School. While at Purvis, Ms. Pearson proudly became House Captain for Gordon House. She continued her studies at the Berkeley Institute, where she continued her athletic excellence as captain of Green House. She became very involved in extracurricular activities, including Girl Guides, netball, and the May Festivals. She made special lifelong friendships during her time at school with Roseanne, Norma, and Dorothea, dubbing themselves, "The Big Four". They are still closely connected after over 50 years.

At the age of 12, she got her first job working at a grocery store, The Handy Market, working every

weekend and through the summer holidays. She ultimately pursued a career in education after winning a Government scholarship to the College of St. Mathias in Bristol, England and a year at Eastbourne's College of Physical Education. She taught at all levels of Bermuda's school system for over 50 years including at St. George's Secondary School, Southampton Glebe School, Sandy's Secondary School, Dellwood, and the Adult Education School. She retired from teaching in December 2013.

Ms. Pearson feels blessed by her two beautiful children: her son Leslie and daughter LaVonne, who she visits annually in Tennessee along with their spouses and her four grandchildren. Her hobbies include travel, gardening, photography, and art. She has dabbled in a variety of mediums including watercolour, pastel, and charcoal drawings. The pride of her personal art collection are the framed charcoal drawings that she did of her four grandsons.

Looking back on her life, Ms. Pearson is happy to have been of service to the community, especially in the field of Girl Guides and teaching. She recognises that sometimes it only takes one person to make an impact, "If I have made a difference in just one life, it will all have been worth it."







# Mrs. Phyllis Pedro

Phyllis Pedro was born in Hamilton, in an area known as Brooklyn some time ago, behind Master's Limited. She grew up in Paget in a children's home called Ridgeway. She stayed there until she was 16 when she married John Pedro. The story goes that she met John when she was 15 and was quite taken with him. She used to ride her pedal bike with her friend and would let the air out of her tires so that they could go to the gas station where John worked to get the tires pumped up again. The plan worked and a year later Phyllis and John were married. They later went on to have four children.

In the working world, Mrs. Pedro was at the Bank of Bermuda for 27 years as a trouble shooter, later moving to Horizon's Group Limited for 10 years in their accounts department. She also worked with the Sea Cadets in Dockyard for some time as a secretary. Her final career move was to Designer Flowers, where she worked for 20 years until her retirement.

Now fully retired, she spends her time with the Young at Heart Senior's Club at St. James Church in Somerset and meeting up with a group of friends self-proclaimed the "Crafty Ladies." Every Wednesday, they get together to crochet, knit, sew, and quilt. Always creating wonderful things, they've even made baskets of crafts and delivered them to nursing homes at Christmas.

When reminiscing on the most wonderful thing that has ever happened to her, Mrs. Pedro recalls the exciting surprise of the birth of her daughter, after having 3 boys back to back. She also fondly recalls the Alaskan cruise she took with her husband, which she smilingly agreed that without a doubt it ranks high on her list of most wonderful experiences.



*Young at Heart*



# Mrs. Audrey Pitcher

We've all heard that it takes a village to raise a child, and in the spirit of clichés and catchphrases this is inherently true in the case of Audrey Pitcher. Born on Pond Hill, Pembroke, she was primarily raised by her grandmother and spoiled by her aunts and uncles.

At Central School she excelled in sports before moving to Southampton and attending Bermuda Institute. Once at Bermuda Institute, Mrs. Pitcher became accustomed to going to church on Saturdays with her school friends. While normally a Sunday worshipper, she took to going to both Saturday and Sunday services, effectively spending entire weekends in church.

She was married in 1964 to Warren Pitcher, after meeting him on the side of the road one day while fixing her Mobylette. He stopped to help her fix her bike, and the rest is history. They had 2 children and she has been a loving step-mother to Mr. Pitcher's son. Sadly, Mr. Pitcher passed away in 2000 after a blissful marriage, but Mrs. Pitcher continues to love family life, now a doting grandmother to 9 grandchildren.

She worked in the Woman's Shop in the accounts department, then at the Bank of Bermuda as a teller, and finally as a vault custodian for 25 years until retirement.

She is a member of St. John's AME church where she's very active, having been a member of a few boards, missionary president, choir member, and participating in missionary work when necessary. She is also a member of the Special People's Club and the Angle Street Community Centre.

If you want to find her, however, you'll have to look in the syncopated rhythms of Line Dancing, at the Centre on Angle Street. An avid sports-fan, she can also be spotted in the stands of tennis and cricket matches, in Bermuda and overseas.

She recalls a highlight from her life being a Christian Faith Quiz in 2008 at Mount Zion AME and the 2010 Christian Faith Quiz event, where her team (after weeks of studying) placed as runner-up.





# Mrs. Grace L. Pitcher

Mrs. Grace L. Pitcher was born on Smith's Island in St. David's. She was the fourth of eight children to Geary Pitcher and Joyce Leyland. Her family moved to the greater St. David's area soon after, near the old pilot station. She spent her formative years growing during the time of WWII.

It was in St. David's that she lived, attended school, and even met her future husband, Gladstone Simmons. He was delivering ice to residents, delivered ice to her home, and the rest is history. She lived in St. David's until 1950, when she married and relocated with her husband to Southampton.

Mrs. Pitcher worked in the Princess Hotel Gift Shop doing everything from ordering merchandise to serving customers; she stayed in this post for twenty years until retiring.

She now enjoys the comforts of home and family post-retirement. In her retirement, she's become a savant of knitting and crocheting, fashioning hats, scarfs, and sweaters for her family and friends. She even made a bedspread once while on vacation in New Mexico, right under the nose of her daughter-in-law, who informed her of her favourite colours, unbeknownst that the object of Mrs. Pitcher's creation was indeed for her. She lovingly fills her

time with her five children, nine grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren.





# Mr. Vernon Ivor Grant Rawlins

Vernon Rawlins was born January 30, 1942 on a supposedly windy and rainy day in the City of Hamilton. Mr. Rawlins, a self-proclaimed “city boy” stayed in Bermuda’s small metropolis until he was married at the age of thirty.

Prior to his nuptials, Mr. Rawlins was a graduate of the Technical Institute, at a time when most young men were encouraged to practiced trades; he chose the route of mechanic. He became an apprentice at the age of nineteen at the Pearman Watlington Garage. He stayed there until being called to interview for a position at the NASA Tracking Station on the American Base, after a recommendation from a mentor was put forth to the management. Mr. Rawlins went on to work for Bendix Field Engineering Corporation on the NASA Tracking Station, staying there for twenty two years as a Manager in Logistics. While working there, he took classes with the University of Maryland and City College of Chicago in pursuit of a Bachelor’s Degree.

Within his position at Bendix Field Engineering, Mr. Rawlins travelled as a logistics supervisor and a member of the Depot Level Maintenance Team, visiting Senegal, West Africa, The Bahamas, and Ascension Island. His time spent working for Bendix Field Engineering concluded when Mr. Rawlins decided to leave Bermuda, having finished enough

credits studying to qualify him as a sophomore student. He enrolled in Western New England College and emerged a few years later at 45 years old with a Bachelor’s of Science in Business Administration.

Once back in Bermuda, Mr. Rawlins worked for the Ministry of Works & Engineering. He was later recruited by Centre Solutions, an international company, part of the Zurich group of companies. He stayed there for 16 years until his retirement.

He now works in the family business, owned by his brother, the Bulley-Graham-Rawlins Funeral Home. He is on-call at every funeral, spending his post-retirement the only way he knows how: working, consistently and honestly.







# Mr. E.R. Leroy 'Tubby' Richardson

Leroy 'Tubby' Richardson is a "Jack of all Trades". He was born Ernest Roy Richardson in 1921 to Robert James Richardson and Alberta Olive Richardson in St. George's. He married Olive Eleanor Millicent Steede in 1946 and they had five children.

As a young man, Mr. Richardson was recruited in the Bermuda Militia Artillery. He was stationed at the St. David's Battery as a member of the Nine Men Gun Detachment - whose main duty was to keep every ship (irrespective of size) closely focused on until an all-clear flag signal was received from the examination vessel.

Outside of his military obligations, Mr. Richardson was an accomplished sportsman. He was a member of the Battery Cricket and Football teams and a member of the Governor's Cup Football and Cricket Teams, winning three times in cricket. He was also a member of the St. George's Colts Sports Club in 1937, and both the cricket and football teams of the Bolton Wanderers.

He became a lifelong member of the St. George's Cricket Club in 1939 and was a frequent member of both A and B teams. He was selected to play in Cup Match in 1941, after playing with a tennis ball one day on a lunch-break in the presence of Pilot Walter Darrell, who saw promise in Leroy's ability to bowl. He eventually played in Cup Match and

captured his first wicket on Alma Champ Hunt.

In the working world, he was employed by the Wellington Grocery Store for a long period of time, throughout his military service and sporting activities. He later joined the Bermuda Prison Service in 1950 and remained there for 21 years. He was promoted to Assistant Housemaster and finally Chief Officer in 1960. He received the award for Long Service, Good Conduct and Efficiency in 1970.

Having played in Cup Match as a St. George's Captain four times, winning 3 times, and playing in more sporting events, games, and matches that can be counted, one can say that Leroy 'Tubby' Richardson has indeed mastered all the trades of which he has been so fully immersed in.





# Mrs. Joan Eleanor Roberts

Mrs. Joan Roberts is a city girl, born on Mount Hill; she grew up on Angle Street. Her future husband, Cecil Roberts, lived on Cemetery Road and was the paperboy for her neighbourhood, which was how they met, him ensuring that her family received their daily paper each morning.

She was schooled at Heron Bay Primary, Purvis Primary, and then at the Prospect Howard Academy. She left school rather young to join the workforce to help her family. She started working at Robertson's Drugstore on Court Street, but left to work at Medical Hall. She was then transferred to the Woman's Shop where she became a buyer for the home furnishings department, a position she held for 30 years.

During her youth she "loved a little bit of everything," she says, but truly wanted to become a nurse, but couldn't because her mother couldn't afford it. She was, however, very keen on helping and being involved in the care of seniors. She frequently looked after her two older aunts with her mother. She would take them out to lunch and to town, her aunts trailing behind her "like a row of ducks".

She still is involved in the care of seniors at her church, Hamilton Seventh Day Adventist Church, where she helps with picnics and any other senior

activities. She also enjoys caring for her family, a son, daughter, and two granddaughters.

Other than spending her days caring for others, Mrs. Roberts loves to go camping. Every year, she takes a group of women to Messina House in August for a ladies-only camping retreat. For ten or eleven days, they do nothing but enjoy fellowship and relax in the breezy salt air.





# Mrs. Brenda Saunders

Brenda Saunders speaks of her childhood as if it sprang out of a story book, remembering swimming at the ducking stool at Government House, catching mussels off the rocks and cooking them in a biscuit tin, and picking cherries and loquats in Orange Valley, dubbed 'Cherry Land' by her and her adventurous friends.

Born in 1947 in Devonshire and growing up on Friswell's Hill, Mrs. Saunders attended Central School. She then attended Prospect High School for Girls, which she credits the bulk of her learning, growing, and understanding of all important life lessons. She speaks of her teachers fondly, "they were beautiful, they taught us everything, and we had to live it afterwards." Prospect School served as one of her greatest influences, down to the incredibly close relationships between the students.

Mrs. Saunders embraced her enriching experience at Prospect School and returned it in the form of a career in education. She served as a para-educator for the Bermuda Schools. She also taught as a substitute teacher for 17 years, being stationed at almost every pre-school, primary school, and high school on the island. She loved her time spent with the students and appreciated being able to give back to the Bermuda Public School system that so richly defined her own personal growth.

Mrs. Saunders has been married to her doting husband, Edward Saunders, for 48 years and they enjoy spending time with their 2 wonderful sons and 1 grandson. They have travelled extensively, visiting every continent of the world. Mrs. Saunders now resides in St. David's where she has been for the past 40 years as an avid member of the community and St. Luke's Church.





# Mrs. Carolyn Jean Todd

Fairy tales have a pretty reliable storyline: there's usually a young woman who ventures out into the world, takes a trip to a sub-tropical island, ends up out one night under the stars at a dance party in a local club, and maybe meets a handsome stranger from across the room, who sweeps her off her feet and before she can stop it, she stumbles hopelessly in love. Carolyn Todd's story is no fairy tale, but reads almost to the letter like one. Originally born in Kinston, North Carolina and raised in the Bronx, New York, she didn't visit Bermuda until she was nineteen, on a vacation with a friend and co-worker.

As fate and destiny would have it, she met her future husband one night out dancing, at the aptly named Tourist Trap club on North Shore, next to the former Clay House Inn. He asked her to dance and they danced until the club closed. The rest, as they say, is history, or rather happily ever after. Carolyn married Eugene Voorhees Franklin Todd, and they had 2 children and 4 grandchildren and were happily married for 44 years until her husband's death.

After falling in love, Mrs. Todd moved to Bermuda and began working as a temp in Mr. Calvin Smith's statistician's office. She then went on to become secretary at the Police Headquarters for four and a half years. She then moved to the House of Assembly as a secretary, then administrative assistant, and

finally as an assistant clerk to the legislature. She stayed in this position until August 2012, serving for forty years as a dedicated civil servant to the Government of Bermuda. She became the longest serving civil servant in the House of Assembly.

Now Mrs. Todd spends her time enjoying her grandchildren, volunteering as a Pink Lady at the KEMH, and being an active member of her church, Mount Zion AME, where she has been an a member since 1976.







# Mrs. Lois Lorraine Weeks

Lois Weeks has always been a hard worker, dedicated to ensuring that her various commitments were well-organised and prioritised. Born in 1924 to Joseph Samuel Dill and Leila Dill (nee Astwood) at Government Gate, she was one of 13 children. They spent their youths organising impromptu concerts in the evenings with the other neighbourhood children.

She was educated at Central School and the Berkeley Institute and started her career soon after completion at Hamilton Press. She parlayed a love of cooking into a role as the main cook at Harrington House at age 17.

She became skilled at operating the linotype and the Variety Press working at the Hamilton Press and then the Globe Press until 1982. Yearning for a career change, she applied to the Bank of N.T. Butterfield and remained there for 14 years until she retired in 1996. Her retirement was brief: they rehired her for a further 7 years. Not one for staying still, she continued working at night at Island Press during her banking career. Today, she continues to assist her daughter Suzette with her immigration advisory business as a means of keeping busy. Mrs. Weeks is a firm believer that, "if you don't use it, you're going to lose it."

During her working career, Mrs. Weeks also gave time to countless committees at Church. She notably started ushering and became a Sunday School Teacher in the 1960's. She remains a Senior Usher today and is a relief Sunday School Teacher, co-treasurer, and a volunteer for the annual Vacation Bible School.

It might not seem possible with such an extensive career and community involvement, but she also had a well-organised and devoted family life. She married Norman Butterfield in 1944 and had 6 children. Following his passing, God sent love in her path again and she married Joseph Christopher Weeks in 1960 and had 6 children with him, enjoying life together until he also passed. Today, she lavishes attention on her 34 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren, planning a special family get-together the first Friday of every month. These family events give her an opportunity to flex her favourite cooking skills for the extended family, with people spilling through every room in the house. She laughingly said, "I have to pray every month that it doesn't rain!"

While working, raising her family, and spending time in church took up a lot of time, Mrs. Weeks also ensured that there were hours left over to dedicate to volunteering and fundraising for many charities including Parents Anonymous, the Physical Abuse Centre, Age Concern, and the Orchid Charity Club. When asked how she possibly found enough time to keep up with all of her commitments, she sagely advised that, "there is nothing greater on this earth than family. It makes me truly happy. If you can prioritise, it doesn't matter how many children you have."

And there is certainly always enough time to make room for happiness.





# Ms. Cora Virginia Wilson, MBE

Cora Virginia Wilson was born in 1937 to Gilbert and Cora Trott and grew up on Angle Street, the youngest of six children. She came from a musical family and grew up playing piano, singing, and participating in choirs. This enjoyment from simple sounds set the stage for a life dedicated to those who could not hear them.

She began her educational pursuits at Northlands School, followed by the Girls Institute. She took a Madam C.J. Walker course for hairdressing and then studied at the Bermuda College. Her studies took her to Chicago to Rosary College, where she studied Montessori Techniques. Upon her return to Bermuda, she began teaching at the Day Care Centre at Happy Valley. While she was teaching her children, she became enraptured watching the sign language instructor work with the hearing impaired children. She wondered, "If a 4 or 5 year old can learn, why can't I?"

Her boss gave her an hour off per day to let her learn sign language. She became enthralled by signing and pursued further studies at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine, FL. From there, she began working for the Ministry of Education with hearing impaired children at Clearwater Middle School and Cedarbridge Academy.

Ms. Wilson laughs, "Sign language is my passion and it took over my life." She incorporated it with her passion for music and taught the hearing impaired to sign popular songs, touring them around the island and abroad with great success. The money raised for the Bermuda Deaf Awareness Association was enough to buy each hearing impaired member a text telephone. More importantly, it worked to de-stigmatise Bermuda's deaf community.

Her commitment to helping others is also evident in her setting up Ministries for the hearing impaired at St. Paul's A.M.E. Church, Heritage Worship Centre, and churches abroad in St. Kitts, Florida, and Philadelphia. She feels strongly that hearing impaired people need to be able to worship, and that there should be different dominations represented so that people have a choice.

Over the years, Ms. Wilson has taught sign language to hundreds of people and her dedication to the community was formally recognised in 2007 when she was named a Member of the British Empire. She enjoys travelling and spending time with her 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren, particularly attending St. Paul's A.M.E. Church with them on Sundays and going to the beach. It warms her heart to hear them sing – music must be in the genes.



A photograph of several purple flowers with yellow centers, likely Bermuda's Treasures, growing in a green field. The flowers are in focus, while the background is blurred. The text "SENIORS: Bermuda's Treasures" is overlaid on the image.

SENIORS:  
*Bermuda's Treasures*



