

# JERONA BABB

*Wise Men came from the East, So did this Bahamian Elder Flower.*



Ms Babb's early childhood history records her as an athlete and performer of note from the Eastern District. She has always had a penchant for track and the Performing arts.

She was a member of various teams of excellence, including debates, sports, guilds, square dance and concertizing troupes.

She was a front runner in track, and often returned East with a medal or two, after a day of competitive track and field events on Clifford Park in the West.

This Authentic Eastern District Pondite (from "the Pond"), as a young damsel, learned to curtsy for Eastern Senior Graduation Ceremonies and present floral bouquet arrangements to notables, such as the Duchess of Windsor, and ladies in waiting.

One community service event was the Annual Holiday food fest that involved feeding the less fortunate on Malcolm's Park on Christmas Day.

This project was initiated by Frances Butler, (mother B), close associate of American Founder, Educator Mary McLeod Bethune, and mother of the late Governor General Sir Milo Butler.

Ms Babb played an active part in most of the church-related activities at St. Matthews Anglican Church. She was a competitive figure on the young women's basketball teams, exhibiting keen competition featuring the well-known Podal Pushers.

The director world renowned tennis professional, the late Dame Bertha Isaacs,

Under the leadership of the young priest, Michael Eldon, currently His Lordship, the Bishop Michael Eldon. Jerona was one of the lieutenant's among those invited to serve in the First Girls Brigade that was formed in the Bahamas.

After completing her early education in the Bahamas she pursued further studies in the United States of America, which included graduation from Charles Evans Hughes High school and two profile Institutions.

Ms Babb is recognized as a Communications Career Woman, Fashion Model, Concert Artist, Community Supporter, and a Trailblazer. Her new venture involves world organization The Circle of Women.

Her recognition awards include, citations from The John Brown Memorial Association, Christian Leadership Conference, The YWCA and the YMCA,

Junior Achievement Executive Advisor of the Year, Urban League, N.A.A.C.P.,

a beauty pageant title holder, Miss Hi Society, a Communication leadership award, and most recently, CARIB News Bahamian-American Mother of the Year.

Always a winner, Jerona was a consistent part of the Bahamian scene in New York,

including the annual Easter Parade of Fashion sponsored by the stalwart organization The Jolly Four. She and her select committee planned and coordinated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Nassau Bahamas Association. She single handedly organized the first and only Valentine Candle light Event.

Jerona was invited to sing the Bahamas National Anthem when it was first heard outside of the Country of the Bahamas at an Event honoring the contributions of the late Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Sir Lyndon Pindling and Lady Pindling.

In New York City she was instrumental in locating a small group of Bahamians to celebrate the First Bahamas Independence.

That group of firsts included a Noon time church service where special prayers were offered and the then Ambassador Davidson Hepburn read the lesson, in honor of the first year of Independence for the Bahamas.

The following year, with the guidance of the Consul General to the Bahamas,

the Honorable A. Missouri Sherman Peter, the First Advisory Committee was formed, in an effort to celebrate annually the Independence of the Bahamas.

Jerona, was one of the founding members of that team of persons who formed the first Advisory Committee, to celebrate the Independence of the Bahamas.

The major event was a church service with a very large overflowing crowd, at the Church of All Souls (Episcopal) in New York City, with Father Ranforly Brown of Nassau Bahamas as the Celebrant Priest. The refreshments consisted of two fish and one Punch bowl of Switcher. It was the start of something big. It is no longer only a New York Celebration, but one observed by Bahamians all over the World.

Mrs. Babb continues to be an integral part of most of the planning for various Bahamian Celebrations. Her contributions are numerous. For example, her association as Bahamian liaison in the Caribbean Sunshine Awards, was the defining point in recognition of George Eric Moray, Bahamian musician, receiving a posthumous Sunshine award in 2002.