



March 27, 2024

Women's Month Celebration

Celebrating Brooklyn's Phenomenal Women

Sheila A. Davis - Sheila is a native of Brooklyn, NY. A product of the New York City Public School System and is a graduate of Franklin K. Lane High School.

Immediately after high school, Sheila joined the work force and held an array of positions in the private and public sector: S.L. Hoffman Uniform Co., U.S. Post Office, New York Telephone Co., Social Services Food Stamp Program, and the New York City Transit Authority. In January 2007, after 28 years of service, Sheila retired from the Transit Authority.

Always having an entrepreneurial desire, Sheila has completed courses in the Travel Industry, Preparing Taxes and Real Estate. She has spent the last 23 years promoting health and wellness as a Director with Neo-Life.

Sheila works diligently with various religious organizations. Current President of Church Women United, Brooklyn Unit, Eastern Baptist Association – Women's Department, Gospel Music Workshop of America, Hampton University Ministers Conference Choir. Sheila has received numerous awards for her outstanding work in leadership and service.

Sheila is the proud mother of 2 sons, Richard and Michael, and she has 6 grandchildren.

Suleika Cabrera Drinane was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico and raised in Spanish Harlem. Encouraged by her mother, Suleika always served her community working elders and their families as an advocate and organizer. To this day, her dedication and passion for her community, seniors, and their families makes Suleika a highly regarded leader.

In 1978, Suleika was Founder and President ; Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for the Puerto Rican / Hispanic Elderly, Inc. which is one of the largest Latino based nonprofit organizations serving Hispanic and other ethnic minorities in New York City. Under her leadership, IPR/HE grew into a multi-service operation serving the Greater New York Metropolitan Area. Suleika is the founder of the Hispanic Senior Action Council, a statewide

advocacy and leadership organization with 6,000 members. Although she retired in 2016, Suleika continues to advocate for elder and women's rights.

Norma Harris - A native of Panama, Norma retired in 2015 as a bi-lingual Health Insurance Specialist in the New York Regional Office of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),

Norma earned her B.A. in Economics, Magna Cum Laude from CUNY and a Masters in Media, Summa Cum Laude from New York University.

Norma remains politically connected by participating in many fundraising events and on various committees, in name an inordinately large number of loyal women who have been an important part of her life since childhood. The love and support they share is unique, particularly in these times.

In an effort to continue this legacy, Norma hosts dinners every other Friday for young people who keep her up to date on what's happening, and she shares the joys of healthy aging.

She maintains an on-going dialogue with diverse groups across New York City and has a special interest in faith-based institutions, and their ability to impact the social

determinants of health on their respective communities.

She is a life member of the Brooklyn NAACP, on the Membership Committee; sings with The Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble, featured annually at the Juneteenth Celebration at Carnegie Hall and in various other concert dates. She is very active in her church, Janes UMC where, since 1997 she is writer and editor of a bi-monthly newsletter "The Wesleyan," distributed

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Rev. Dr Lula Mae Phillips is the senior pastor at Christian Calvary Ministries a children's church in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Has been active since March 2018 in the distribution of naloxone kits and delivery of opioid overdose prevention education to houses of worship in East Harlem and the South Bronx, two opioid hot spots in NYC.

She has experience as a Clinical Research Coordinator with Hunter College and taught Community Health Nursing at York College and Long Island University. Rev. Phillips received a Doctorate in Ministry and a Master's in Divinity from Alliance Theological Seminary and has a Master's in Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.