

## VEDA GILL BSS

Veda Gill was born on 6th October 1928 and was married to the late Cyril Earl Gill for 34 years. She was awarded numerous awards, including the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1978, a plaque in recognition of significant contribution to Education in 1995, the Meritorious Service Award from the Caribbean Association of Home Economists in 1997, and the very prestigious National Award, Barbados Service Star (BSS), in 2001.

Veda has been a member of SI of Barbados since 1972, sitting on various committees and serving as president of her club from 1990 to 1991. During that time, the Hildegard Weekes Soroptimist Activity Centre for Senior Citizens was established. She was very committed to the Activity Centre project and was instrumental in various fund-raising activities to ensure the opening of the Centre in 1991. Veda Gill epitomizes 'the best of sisters' and, in 2014, was honoured and conferred by her club, SI Barbados, the title of Honorary Life Membership in recognition for her contribution to Soroptimism, her community and the status of women.



Veda has made a significant contribution to Education in Barbados and the wider Caribbean. Home Economics was and remains her passion. She started her teaching career at Malvern Academy in 1949, moving to the St Bernard's Girls' School from 1949 until 1954. She did a year's training in Home Economics at the then Housecraft Centre Institution, after which she taught at the West St Joseph Secondary School, now Grantley Adams Memorial School.

In 1961 she was awarded a three-year scholarship in Home Economics at the Yorkshire College of Housecraft, and was assigned to the Housecraft Centre upon her return. In 1968 she received a one-year scholarship to the Queen Elizabeth College, University of London, where she obtained a post-graduate diploma in Home Economics related to Community Development. She was appointed Principal of the Housecraft Centre in 1970 and six months later to the post of Education Officer and remained in this post until her retirement in 1988.

Veda was involved with the Caribbean Examinations Council from 1976 through to 2008, having served in various capacities: a member of the panel which formulated the Home Economics subjects, Chief Examiner for Clothing and Textiles, and a Resource Person. She has also conducted workshops for Home Economics teachers within the Caribbean and co-authored a series of three books entitled Caribbean Home Economics.

She was also involved in the Barbados Association of Home Economics and the Caribbean Association of Home Economists, holding various posts including Assistant Treasurer, 2nd Vice President and President. In total, she had 26 years serving on the Executive Committee. She also worked with women at the female prison in Barbados and is very involved in her church.

Veda Gill is currently the eldest and the longest-serving member of SI Barbados and has attended SIGBI Federation Conferences, Soroptimist International and many SICN Conferences. Her love for Soroptimism and its ideals have kept Veda Gill committed over the years. Veda continues to influence the minds of the young among us, including younger Soroptimists and young teachers across the Caribbean region, while making a difference in her community and encouraging all to be respectful, honest and hard working.

