

# IN THE BOX NEWS



## Bargain Box Membership Newsletter, Issue 2

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### Farewell Alan Gorbut



The many faces of Alan, but all the same heart of one of our long serving board members who recently bid farewell from the Board. He will be heading to the US to enjoy retirement. We take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his dedicated years of service to the board of the Committee of 25 as well as being our occasional Mr. Fix It. He will be missed. Larry will now have to find another board member to tease.



### Welcome Robert King



Robert has a special connection to the Committee of 25, in that his grandmother was one of the early board members. Her name was Dorothea King. Robert has 20 plus years working with at risk youth and adults and is a Probation Officer with the Department of Court Services. He is also a Certified Relationship and Divorce Coach. Welcome aboard Robert. I am sure that your grandmother would be so pleased to see another King taking a seat at the table or shall I say zoom room. 😊

## The Evolution of the Bargain Box

Mrs. Edna Watson, a Canadian physiotherapist, arrived in Bermuda in 1939 aboard a Cavalier flying boat from New York to Bermuda. Amongst her achievements of supporting the injured captain at sea for 14 hours, she was one of the first two women to be elected to the Colonial Assembly.

While in Parliament, Mrs. Watson served as Chairman of the Social Welfare Board, which made her acutely aware of the needs of children with disabilities. In 1952 she asked twelve friends to each ask one of their friends to join a committee to address the problem. She, her twelve friends, plus their twelve friends, formed what was known at that time, The Committee of 25 for Handicapped Children.

The Committee was subsequently incorporated by an Act of Parliament in July 1952, with the Founders being listed as Queenie Penboss, Doris Pedrolini, Yvonne Bowker, Rosemary Mitchell and Rea Wentworth.

In 1975, the Bargain Box first opened in a wooden building, with its function to collect good quality clothes and household items from members and friends, and sell them at very reasonable prices with the proceeds going to meet the expenses of the Committee's activities. Since its inception, it was run by Mrs. Bea Stott, whose portrait is prominently displayed even to this day.

In 1985, the Bargain Box had outgrown the little wooden hut and was torn down to make room for a new building with an upper floor to provide rental income. 1991 saw a further addition to provide office space for the Committee and another rental unit. The modular structure was replaced in 2009 with a custom designed building with an additional second floor. Bargain Box utilizes the entire ground floor with tenants on the first and second floors. The office is also on the second floor.

(for more on Co25 history visit

<https://www.committeeof25.org/> )

## Volunteer Spotlight: Suzanne Smith



### 1. How long have you volunteered at the Bargain Box?

I have been a volunteer at the Bargain Box over 18 years. I cannot remember the exact date.

### 2. What has been your most rewarding experience?

The most rewarding experience was meeting Ann Thomas (now deceased) a former volunteer. Ann volunteered at the Bargain Box in the old building and as a child she also accompanied her mother who was a volunteer. Ann was not in the best of health, but she was dedicated. She shared many helpful tips with me. (e.g.) Putting the waist band of pants around your neck to determine if they will fit.

### 3. Can you recall your most expensive sale item?

I cannot recall the most expensive item sold, but whenever we receive antiques, or any rare item Lauren always researches that so that we have an idea of the value and we can gauge what we should charge.

### 4. What is the most amusing thing that you have experienced while volunteering at the Bargain Box?

The team that I work with at the Bargain Box are fun characters. We often will model wigs and sometimes try on some of the clothes that make us look ridiculous.

### 5. What would you say in the most important quality for someone to have as a volunteer at the Bargain Box?

To be a volunteer at the Bargain Box one needs to be passionate about the organization, a team player, reliable and most of all willing to do what ever job that needs to be done.

## Quarterly Quote:

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"  
- Martin Luther King, Jr

### New Tenant:

## Synergy



Lorrie Peniston, the owner of Synergy, commenced her lease with the Co25 on January 1<sup>st</sup>, occupying office space on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

She is a specialist in psychotherapy and has been in private practice for over 24 years providing therapy and counselling services to adolescents, adults, couples and families.

If you see her around the building, please extend a warm welcome.

**P.S.** There is still office space available on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor that we are actively trying to let. Please spread the word.  
<https://coldwellbankerbermuda.com/property/midsea-building-1st-floor-west/>