

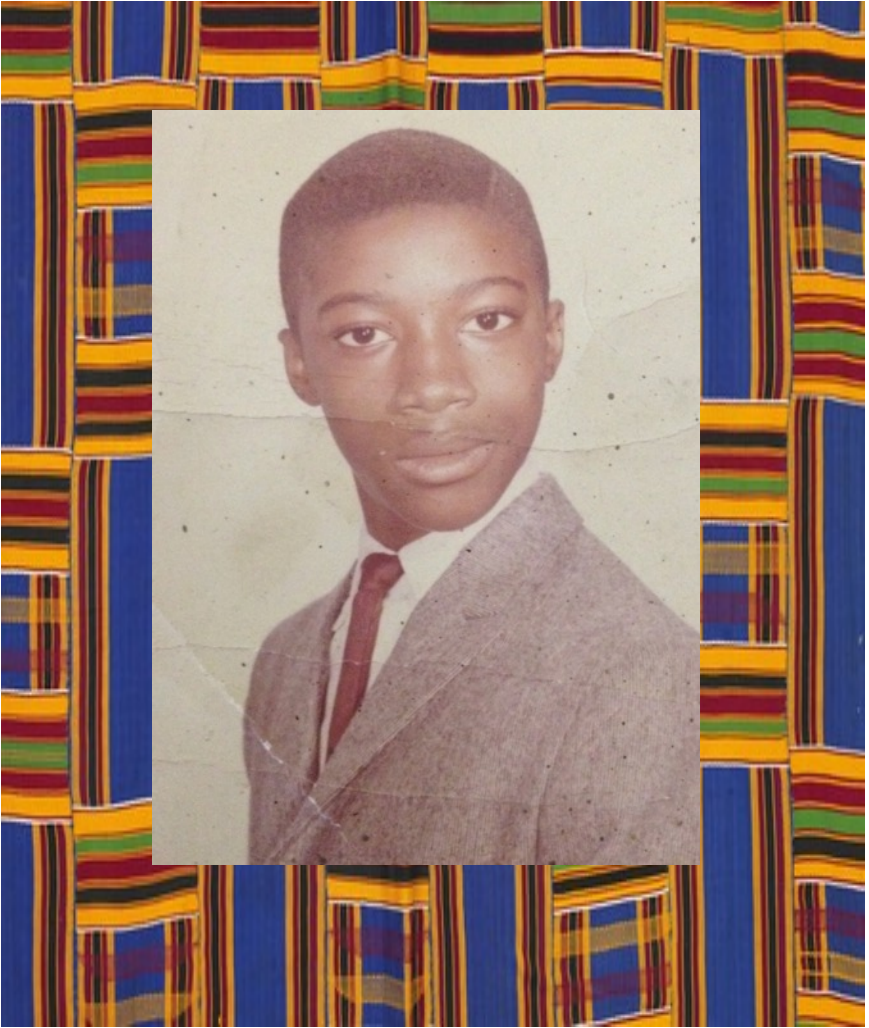
In Loving Memory of

A color portrait of John Alvin Berry, a Black man with short, dark hair, smiling gently. He is wearing a dark tuxedo jacket, a white dress shirt, and a dark bow tie. A light pink rose boutonniere is pinned to his left lapel. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a blue sky.

John Alvin Berry

Sunrise
July 22, 1946

Sunset
August 13, 2012



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever.

Amen.

***We thank you.
God Bless you.
We salute you,
Dearest Brother,
Faithful Family Member and
Ultimate Friend,***

John Alvin.





Resurrection Church
276 West 151st Street
New York, NY 10039

August 22, 2012

Mass
6:00 p.m.

Celebration of Life
7:00- 9:00 p.m.

Forever in our hearts



The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for every act of kindness extended to them during this, their season of bereavement.



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"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"





Holy Mass

Entrance Song

Greeting

Opening Prayer

First Reading

Second Reading

Gospel/ Homily

Memorial Acclamation

Communion

Dismissal



On July 22, 1946, in New York City, Mary Magdeline Reed Berry and John David Berry joyfully celebrated the birth of their second son, **John Alvin Berry**.

At 230 Bradhurst Avenue in Harlem, with his older sister Joan, brother Carl and baby sister, Stephanie, John Alvin grew up in a large extended family with their first cousins as close as siblings. Among John Alvin's intimates included lifelong friends dating back to his early childhood. The impulse to expand family lived through him as he regularly

sought to forge connections between friends and acquaintances across commonalities and differences.

Alvin has been described variously as: endlessly curious, ever searching for ways to make the world better, born of an extraordinary generosity of spirit, as a voracious reader, and as a compassionate and caring soul.

As a youth Alvin attended Resurrection School, Cardinal Hayes High School and City College. His IQ was reputed to have matched Einstein's. A master of mischief, as a student, John was said to have always been into something. His wit and restless intelligence challenged his teachers and classmates alike, oftentimes making learning more mirthful than some of his teachers might have intended.



John Alvin was a born artist and activist. In the 60's, he nurtured his creative passion for music amid African drummers, as did many young Harlemites. This passion led to expression in a variety of forms, including healing. In the New York Harm Reduction Educators where he was a longtime volunteer, he was referred to as the "soul and heartbeat" of the group.

In the 70's, he worked with the New Lafayette Theatre. Beginning in the 80's and for the rest of his life, Alvin partnered with his sister, Stephanie to build an award winning, professional, Harlem-Based Theatre Company, Blackberry Productions, Inc. BP's mission, like Alvin's life mission, is to provide a voice for the voiceless.



Extending beyond the community, John's activism was international in as was witnessed by his participation in a sojourn to Cuba. As a human and civil rights activist, he traveled to Cuba to explore different ways of alleviating some of the social injustices he witnessed here in the US.



While in Cuba, he contributed to the Cuban economy by cutting sugar cane for 3 months.

Alvin was the quintessential enigma:

- While he could always be counted on to be late, he could likewise, always be counted on to show up; Along these lines, folks always waited for him to appear at social gatherings because they knew he could always be trusted to incite hilarity;
- He understood some of the most complex issues of our time, but lived a very simple life;
- He had very few material possessions, yet he showered others with whatever he had, if they expressed a need for it;
- He might not recall what he had for breakfast that day, but would recount some of the most arcane milestones in history; and
- He loved to eat but was always thin.

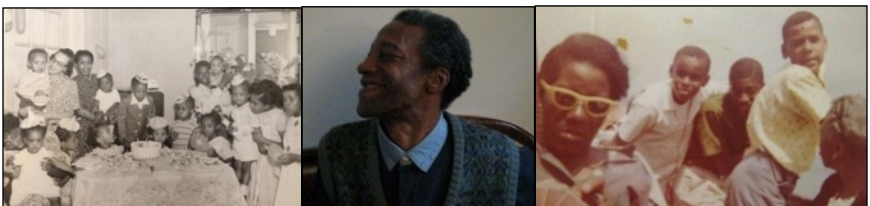
John Alvin was a longtime member of Resurrection Church, and an active member of the Resurrection Alumni Association.

A loving and attentive father, he adored his three daughters and twelve grandchildren.

In the twilight of his brilliant orbit throughout our lives, ironically, Alvin was ultimately the victim of his own kindness, succumbing to injuries suffered at the hands of someone he was trying to help.

Alvin transitioned the morning of Monday, August 13, 2012.

John Alvin Berry is mourned by a legion of family, friends, and comrades in the human rights, civil rights and tenants' rights extended family. Moreover, innumerable recipients of his grace and kindness are now deprived of his beneficence.





Alvin leaves to cherish his memory:

His children : Monifa (Njomele), Alsha and Janel (William)

His brothers and sisters: (Joe), Carl Berry (Elsie), and Stephanie Berry

Grandchildren: Willie, Jonas, Jernaye, Branel, William Jr. Reed, Maelah, Liam, Jude, Jazz, Theopolis and Justin

Nieces and Nephews: Margo Miles (Arthur), Karenne Berry, Millicent Allen, Leslie Allen, Valerie White, Jan Allen, Carl Berry Jr. (Simone), Jennifer Allen, Kisha Spence (Peter)

Aunts: Mildred Mitchell, Hazel Reed and Clara Berry

Cousins: Judy Searles, Delores Goins, Audrey Boatswain (Larry), Gwen Maristany, Daniel Berry (Barbara), Leroy Mitchell, Fela Reed, Denise Reed, Leslie Reece (Anthony) and Kevin Mitchell

Honorary Brother: Warren Barksdale

And a host of other relatives and close friends

