

*In Loving
Memory
of*



Helena Hazel Lewis

Sunrise

November 13, 1945

Sunset

September 4, 2012

Monday, September 10, 2012 - 11:00 a.m.

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, NJ

Dr. LaJoyce Brookshire, Officiating

Emory Lee, Organist



*Precious
Memories*

Reflections of Life

Helena Hazel Lewis was born to the late Anna and Sydney Lewis in Weldon, North Carolina on November 13, 1945. After her father's passing, her mother moved to New York City where she raised her children. Hazel was the baby girl and the fourteenth of fifteen brothers and sisters.

Hazel was your typical kid, always getting into mischief which usually resulted in her getting into trouble. She had a very strong distaste for fish, chicken and beef but loved barbeque. We believe she never tasted chicken because of one her brother's pranks. Growing up with boys who liked to pull pranks made Hazel wish to have girls. God must have known how serious she was with this wish and prayer.

Hazel had few friends because she had the Lewis Family. She had so many brothers and sisters as well as nieces and nephews who were more like cousins because they were so close to her in age. Everyone knew about the Lewis Family especially on Classon and Waverly Avenues in Brooklyn. The Lewis Family was and continues to be very close. Hazel always talked about her family and loved researching their rich lineage and heritage. She was the resident family historian and took that job to heart.

As a teenager living in Brooklyn, she became friends with William H. Gantt, Jr. Their friendship blossomed into something more and on April 12, 1963, they married. From this union, they had three girls, Renee, Sandi and DeeDee. As young parents, they worked hard at trying to keep their family together but realized much later in their lives that they were better at remaining friends.

DeeDee died as an infant in 1966 and Hazel never could fully understand why. She always told Renee and Sandi that DeeDee was "God's Gift from Heaven." And while

her daughter's death was so long ago, the pain never left. But Hazel made sure to make Renee and Sandi the focus of her life.

She would talk to her girls about life and making choices. She would eventually earn her High School diploma to show them she was a woman of action too. Hazel worked many jobs to provide for her "girls." Before retiring, she worked with the City of New York as a Supervisor of Timekeeping for almost twenty years.

Although she worked hard, she always set aside weekends to show the girls more. They would take trips to Manhattan to see shows and go to museums. She pushed Renee and Sandi as much as they needed and wanted and always told them that "limits were what you placed in your own life."

Hazel did all of these amazing things as a mother while living with Lupus for over thirty-three years. While she lived everyday of those years in pain or discomfort, she found joy in watching Renee and Sandi grow up to have their own families. Her grandsons, Quentin, Terrence and Chandler were able to enjoy doing crafts and going places with "Mom." She always knew how to make every moment they spent with her special. She captured most of these moments and put them into scrapbooks.

Although she transitioned to be with our Heavenly Father, on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, she leaves a legacy that most people could only dream...

Her memories will be cherished by her daughters, Alexandria Mays and Cassandra Gordon; son in-law, Clarence Gordon; grandsons, Quentin Mays, Terrence Mays and Chandler Gordon; long-time companion, Robert Grier; sisters, Corinthian Brown, Celia Cromwell, and Virginia Ferguson; brothers Elmo Lewis (Clara) and Milton "Brook" Lewis; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Order of Service

Processional.....Family

Musical PreludeEmory Lee
Organist

InvocationDr. LaJoyce Brookshire

Scripture - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16 ..Bridgett Powell

Scripture - Psalm 23.....Stacey Murray

Solo“Wind Beneath My Wings”
Emory Lee

ReflectionsTerrence Mays, grandson
Pamela Crockett Fish
Other family & friends

Obituary

Musical Selection“Oh, How I Love Jesus”
(Traditional)

EulogyDr. LaJoyce Brookshire

Benediction

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Interment</u> Rosehill Cemetery Linden, New Jersey</p>

*Family requests that you join them for repast,
immediately following the interment.*



She Saved My Life!

I was very lucky and privileged to have met

Ms. Helena Hazel Lewis!

I always reminded her how she helped me regain myself, after losing my way!

She put up with me in bad times and I dedicated myself to make her final 10 years as stress-free as possible!

Because SHE SAVED MY LIFE!

There are four words that I would like to use to describe Ms. Hazel. She loved her privacy, enjoyed her solitude and loved her daughters and grandchildren!

1. Resiliency: Ability to recover or adjust easily after a tough bout with her health

2. Perseverance: Act of carrying out her plan for her family, by sacrificing her time, spent on a number of jobs to make ends meet. Her tireless hours of sacrificing her health, work and love to make sure her two daughters were cared for and had security.

3. Tenacity: To see it all through regardless of what sacrifices, she had to endure to get the job done

4. Determination: She was always determined to reach any goals she set to provide for her lovely daughters. I witnessed her getting up early coming home late just to make sure that her two daughters' lives were less hectic than her own (I'm an eye witness)...



Dee Dee

Lovingly Submitted By Robert L. Grier

Acknowledgements

The Family of Helena Hazel Lewis acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind acts and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to us during our time of bereavement. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and concerns.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

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973-926-6400

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