

*Celebrating the Life of An
Extraordinary Woman*



Beryl Saunders
"Jerry Marie"

Sunrise
December 2, 1946

Sunset
September 9, 2013

Service

Monday, September 16, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY

Rev. Winston M. Clarke, Officiating

Rev. David Jenkins, Organist

Obituary

Beryl Marie Alexander was born to Myrtle Alexander on December 2, 1946 in Garyville, Louisiana.

In 1960, Beryl, brother Donald Blackwell and Virginia Blackwell drove from New Orleans, Louisiana to Harlem, NYC. She attended Washington Irving High School.

In 1966, she married Hueston Saunders, and in 1968 gave birth to daughter, Velma.

She graduated from City College of New York with a B.A. in Liberal Arts and Sciences. She worked for NYC Parole Department, Community Action for Legal Services, Former City Council President, Carol Bellamy and was the Director of The Mayor's Action Center for Former Mayor David Dinkins. She ended her career as a NYC HRA Housing Specialist.

She was Vice President of The Black Child Development Institute-NY Affiliate, Member of Upper Manhattan Reading Council, & F.O.C.U.S. Women's Reading Group. Since 1988, she founded and spearheaded an annual F.O.C.U.S. Kwanzaa Celebration.

Beryl was an avid reader and traveler. To mention a few places, she traveled to Africa (Ghana) with grandson, Akeem; China, Paris, Hawaii, London, Mexico, St. Thomas, Jamaica, and Nassau and Dominican Republic.

She was a sweet spirit, loving, kind, and willing to give unselfishly to make the world a better place for children and their families. She loved life, people and lived her life to fullest.

Beryl is survived by: daughter, Velma; grandson, Akeem; brother, Donald; cousins, Angela and Vicky; godchildren, Marcus, Chanee', Imani and Isaiah; and a host of "adopted" daughters and close devoted friends.

Order of Service

Music/Drum Selection

Scriptures

Old Testament - Genesis 3:19.....Reverend Winston M. Clarke

New Testament - Matthew 24:36-44... Reverend Alfred Gordon

Poem.....Vicky Rankin

Story.....Malika Patterson

Acknowledgements

Inspirational Dance for Beryl..... by Cheryl

Obituary.....Annette Purnell

Eulogy.....Reverend Winston M. Clarke
Pastor- First Reformed Church

Viewing

Going Home N'awlins Style.....2nd Line Drum (Music Selection)



Interment
Ferncliff Cemetery
Hartsdale, New York

Still I Rise

Dr. Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your
hatefulness,

But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise
I rise
I rise.

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this time of bereavement.

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