

Eva Laura Jenkins Bridges

1923 - 2017



To Enrich The Heritage...

There are lives so aflame with loving service to mankind that they serve as torches to warm and guide all who would follow. Mary McLeod Bethune who was the child of ex-slave parents had such a life. It was her sincere faith that the Nation into which she was born would some day bestow its Heritage of Freedom on all its citizens and Eva dedicated her life to the cause of truth, culture and heritage.

Saturday, December 30, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

Ebenezer A.M.E Church

253 Central Avenue

Rahway, New Jersey 07065

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Officiating

Rev. Vernon Leak, Presiding

*A Celebration of the Life of
Eva Laura Jenkins Bridges*

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Lift Every Voice and Sing Negro National Anthem

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 100

New Testament - John 14:1-7

Musical Selection

PoemBy Ms. Connie Ross

Reflections (Retired) Professor Steven Campbell Ambassador of Lawrence St.

Acknowledgements & Resolutions

Obituary

Musical Selection

Eulogy

Recessional

Interment

Hollywood Memorial Park • Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ

repast to follow at Ebenezer Church Fellowship Hall.

A Life Sketch

*“ To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven”
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

A TIME TO BE BORN (Ecclesiastes 3:2a) Eva Laura Jenkins Bridges was born February 25, 1923 in Rahway, NJ to the late Lee and Lottie Jenkins. Eva was the youngest of 5 children all of whom preceded her in death; Earnest Lee, Ralph, Joseph (Nang), and Frederick (Freddie) Lee. Born in the hands of a midwife on Bond Street; Eva was nurtured in a devout Christian home and was Christened as a baby at Ebenezer AME Church in Rahway where she remained a life member. She was educated in the Rahway Public School System, but also received additional tutoring from her mother Lottie who attended Bowling Haven Boarding School in Savannah, Georgia. At a young age Eva developed an insatiable thirst for knowledge. She was an avid reader and writer who enjoyed writing to her International pen pals and reading the works of Poets like Langston Hughes who penned her favorite poem “I too Sing America” . .

A TIME TO LOVE (Ecclesiastes 3:8a) Eva had the desire to become a missionary upon graduating high school. Due to her mother’s illness her opportunities for travel were limited, and she soon assumed the responsibility as her mother’s caregiver. In time she would come to rely on Miss Rebecca Jane Voorhies, a member of Ebenezer AME to help assist in caring for Lottie until her death. After her mother’s passing Eva once again took on the roll as caregiver to Miss Voorhies (affectionately known as Miss Becky) until she passed at the age of 103 years old.

Valentine’s Day, February 14, 1948 Eva was joined in Holy Matrimony to the late Chester Bridges. They enjoyed 53 loving years together and raised 6 little girls. Yvonne Padilla (Bruce), Renee Thrash (David), Deborah Bridges, Rebecca Bridges, Victoria Ramos, and Melinda Ramos.

After marriage Eva decided to serve others by opening her home, and playing a parenting role for many young people in the community. She developed long lasting relationships with many of the people she opened her home to. Special thanks to Lillian Newsom who has maintained a constant presence in Eva’s life throughout the years.

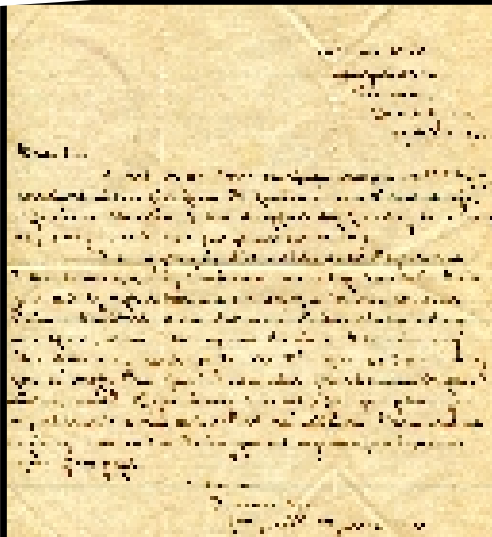
A TIME TO LAUGH (Ecclesiastes 3:46) In 1961 Eva and her father Lee Jenkins along with her 4 girls set sail for Africa. This was an interest that both she and her father shared, and this trip would be her first of many to follow.

While raising her family Eva attended Newark State College (Kean University) where she received her elementary school teaching certificate. She taught Kindergarten at Holy Rosary School in Elizabeth, NJ until the closing of the program in 1971. She decided to follow a long awaited dream that she believed to be a calling from God.

In August of 1971 Eva decided to share her passion with her community by opening The Bridges Book Center Afro-American Research Library and Museum at 1480 Main St. in Rahway, NJ. For decades the Book Center in the community, and has catered to the needs of those looking to gain knowledge about African Diaspora Heritage. Eva marketed her wares throughout the continental U.S, The Caribbean, South America, Europe, and Liverpool, England.

A TIME TO DEPART (Ecclesiastes 3:26) Eva departed this Life quietly on Friday December 22, 2017 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway, NJ.

A TIME TO MOURN (Ecclesiastes 3:4a) Left to cherish her memory, legacy of love, and heritage are her daughters, Yvonne Padilla (Bruce) San Juan, Puerto Rico, Renee Thrash, Deborah Bridges, Rebecca Bridges of Rahway, NJ, and Victoria Ramos, Texas, and Melinda Ramos of East Orange, NJ; nieces, Karen Leigh Jenkins White, West Orange, NJ, Bernice Jenkins, Fort Worth, TX and Sheila Moore Atlanta, GA; nephews, David (Dawud) Jenkins, Atlanta, GA, Tyrone Jenkins, Rahway, NJ and Joseph's Jenkins, Atlanta, Georgia; sisters-in-law, Irma Jenkins and Grace Jenkins; daughter-in-law, Gloria Johnson, Willingboro, NJ; her grandchildren, Isha Padilla Carolina, Puerto Rico, David Serai Thrash, Atlanta, Georgia, Chaka Padilla, New York, New York, Jessie Spells, Rahway, NJ Christopher Padilla, Carolina, Puerto Rico, Gene, April and, Michael Johnson of Willingboro, NJ and her sweetie baby Kristiana Thrash, Rahway, NJ; great grandchildren, Keita Johnson, Cavell (CJ), Jayden (MoMo) and little Serai, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.



Bridges Book Center

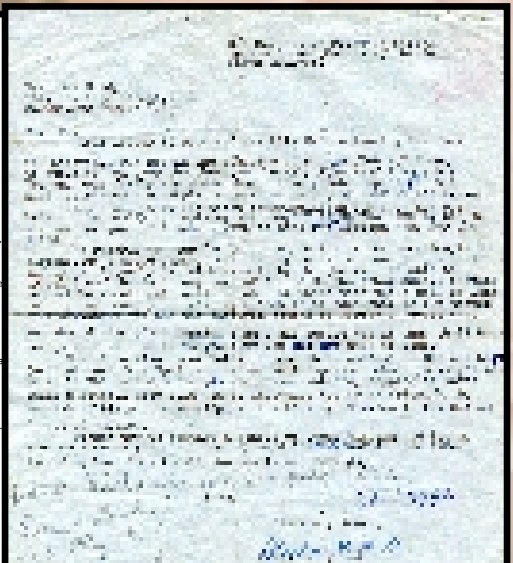
African-American Research Library & Museum
1480 Main Street
Rahway, New Jersey 07065
ART CARD TRAVEL
(732) 381-2040 • (732) 381-4788

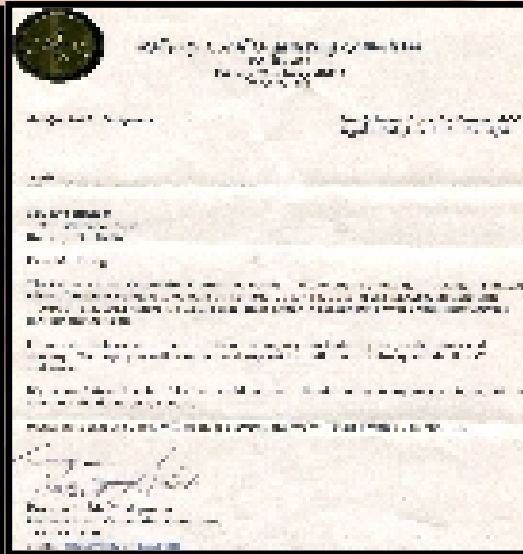
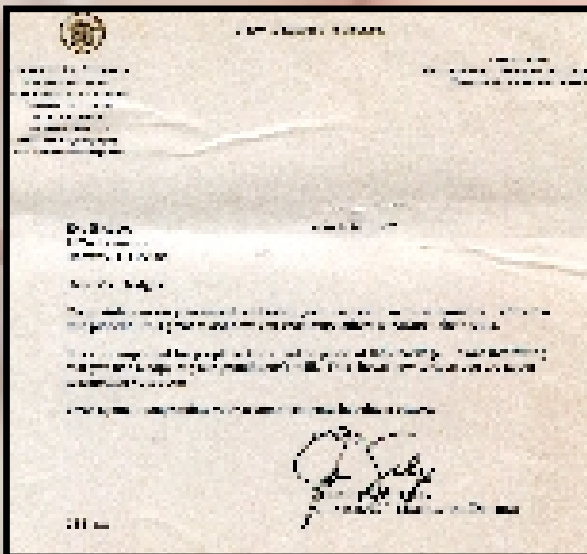
Greetings National Council of Negro Women and guest. My first introduction to the National Council of Negro Women was through the Union County Council of Negro Women. During this time the Union County Council of Negro Women worked closely with the National Council of Negro Women. Our first big project was the First International Debutante Ball which was held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. Girls from all over the United States and Africa were in attendance.

I was on the International Committee. Emma Bricken now Mrs. Harold Lucas was one of our debutantes. Her husband is Mr. Harold Lucas executive director of Housing in Newark New Jersey. She wanted to be here today, but she had to work. I also was alternate delegate to the United Nation for the National Council of Negro Women. As the council was growing, Dorothy Height, the national president asked us to start a Rahway council. I was one of the chartered members.

In 1970, I opened the Bridges Book Center. Much to my surprise after opening the book store I could not work with the council as much as I wanted. I had a passion for black books and was driven with the joy of selling black books all over the country, the islands and England. The people in England received us overwhelmingly because they were starved for books. The joy of selling black books has been a successful venture for thirty-three years. I have seen the results of my work, because many of the professors of black studies have been my customers.

Today, we are the Bridges Book Center and the Afro American Research Library and Museum. This is your museum and we want it to grow. We, we must preserve our own history. Mary McLeod Bethune once said, "I leave you love." This is the love that she left me, and I give it to you. The Bridges Book Center and the Afro American Research Library and Museum. You reap what you sow, if you do not sow anything, you will not reap anything.





4/24/65
THE DAILY JOURNAL, ELIZABETH, N. J.

Miss Voorhies, 103, Dies Former Bond and Servant

ELIZABETH — Miss Rebecca Voorhies of 103 Lawrence St., a bonded servant, died at the city hospital after a long illness, she was 103.

Miss Voorhies, who did not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages and eat meat, was believed to have been Harvey's oldest friend, she was the subject of a play, "The Bond and the Servant," which was written by the late Christopher Voorhies, was one of the church's founders.

On Feb. 10, 1962, when Miss Voorhies was 101, a commemorative service was held at the home of Mrs. Robert E. Henderson and Mrs. Marie Maloney, director of the Harvey Childs Age Club, a complimentary later, she was buried from the late in William John F. Kennedy.

The service party was arranged by Mrs. Chester Higgins, with whom Miss Voorhies lived.

Miss Voorhies had been a member of the church since 1910. She also was a member of the church's choir.

There are no close survivors of Miss Voorhies. She also was 100th birthday when she was 100.

The Nubian Funeral Home, 100 Madison Ave., Elizabeth, is in charge of arrangements.



Heavenly Father comfort my beloved daughters, comfort my family and friends, give unto them the oil of joy for mourning the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Do not sorrow as one who has no hope because we believe that Jesus died and rose again so shall we on that great morning marathon!

God Be Blessed Forever, Amen

If Roses Grow In Heaven

By Delores M. Garcia

*If roses grow in heaven,
Lord please pick a bunch for me,
Place them in my mother's arms
And tell her they're from me,
Tell her I love her and miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek
And hold her for awhile
Because remembering her is easy
I do it everyday
But there's an ache within my heart
That will never go away.*

Pallbearers

Kabili Tayari Jamaal Burden
Darnell Natson Darryl Jones
Malik White

Honorary Pallbearers

Paul Coates
Rafuu Fouts
Sabir and Robert Hayes

Flower Attendants

Anna Daily Joan Brown
Bunny (Leslie) McAlister Julie Alyer
Karen Leigh White

I Needed The Quiet

*I needed the quiet so He drew me aside,
Into the shadows where we could confide.
Away from the bustle where all the day long
I hurried and worried when active and strong.
I needed the quiet tho' at first I rebelled
But gently, so gently, my cross He upheld.
And whispered so sweetly of spiritual things
Tho' weakened in body, my spirit took wings
To heights never dreamed
of when active and gay.
He loved me so greatly, He drew me away.
I needed the quiet. No prison, my bed,
But a beautiful valley of blessings instead -
A place to grow richer in Jesus to hide.
I needed the quiet, so He drew me aside.*

Acknowledgement

The family of the late Eva Laura Bridges would like to thank each one of you for your acts of kindness and keeping us in your prayers during our time of bereavement.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The African American History and Heritage Learning Center of Rahway in care of Ebenezer AME Church 253 Central Ave Rahway.

Professional Services Provided By

Jones Funeral Home

247 Elm Avenue • Rahway, New Jersey 07065

Ph: (732) 381-6981 • Fax (732) 381-5274

Jonesfuneralhome@verizon.net

