

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Leola Jacinth Jack

Sunrise
June 14, 1934

Sunset
March 26, 2022



Service

Friday, April 8, 2022 • 10:30 a.m.

The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York
110-31 Merrick Blvd • Jamaica, New York 11434

Order of Service

The Prelude

The Final Viewing

The Opening Song “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”
Rev. Dr. Frankco Harris

The Prayer of Comfort Rev. Nichole L. Edness

The Scripture Reading

Old Testament – Isaiah 41:10 Jahkiya Jack

New Testament – I Corinthians 15:50-57 Niara Jack

The Selection “Amazing Grace”
Rev. Dr. Frankco Harris

The Acknowledgement of Condolences

The Family Tribute Terry R. O Jack

The Resolutions

The Obituary Lona A. Jack-Vilmar

The Selection “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”
Rev. Dr. Frankco Harris

The Eulogy The Reverend Tiate Carson

The Moments of Meditation

The Closing Prayer

The Benediction

The Recessional “I’m Free”

Interment
The Evergreens Cemetery
Brooklyn, New York

Obituary

Leola Jacinth Berkel, the eldest child of Rupert Berkel and Alice Remella Hall was born on June 14, 1934, on the island of Sint Eustatius (Statia) in the Netherland Antilles. Leola lived with her parents and siblings in Statia until she had to attend secondary school.

As was typical in those days, the pursuit of education required relocating. Since there was no secondary school in Statia, Leola moved to Sint Maarten to live with her Aunt Marjorie to complete secondary schooling. Leola displayed a strong aptitude for mathematics and the manipulation of numbers at an early age.

Upon completion of secondary school, Leola moved to Aruba circa 1948 to pursue the next trajectory of her education. In Aruba she honed her secretarial skills, typing, shorthand and bookkeeping. Leola was always a trailblazer, and as one of the few women on the island who could drive, she was a standout. While working as executive secretary for an Import/Export business, she earned additional income by driving the company owner to meetings, since he did not know how to drive.

Leola believed in service and giving back to the community. She enjoyed working with youth and while in Aruba, she was active with the Girls and Youth Leagues and served as a Sunday school teacher.

Leola met Reynold O. Jack, her true love, while living in Aruba. They married in 1957 and from that union produced four children, Lona, Terry, Jerry, and Berry. In 1962, she moved to Trinidad with her husband and children. Leola was the ultimate domestic engineer, raising her children, organizing, and running the household. Leola was a fast learner and became a photographer's assistant to her husband, helping him run their photo studio as well as assisting him in the darkroom.

Despite a comfortable life in Trinidad, Leola immigrated to New York in 1968 with the objective of providing maximum opportunities for her children. Upon arrival, she tapped into her aptitude and passion for mathematics to land a job in the banking industry, which turned into a thirty-year career, first at Chase Manhattan and then First Union Bank.

Leola was a creative person with a wide array of interests. She was an avid bowler and won many trophies as a member of the Chase Manhattan Bowling League. Leola often spoke about her dream of opening a bowling alley in her beloved Statia. She relished challenges and loved to keep her brain active and by feeding it a daily dose of Sudoku and crossword puzzles. She was also a gardener and took great pride in her colorful flower garden.

Commitment to service was a consistent thread in Leola's life. She was a dedicated member of the Helping Hand Ministry at Allen AME Church for several decades, where she and her sisters, extended a hand to the sick, poor, and needy. Leola was also an active member of the Star of Bethlehem Grand Chapter in Jamaica Queens.

Leola reminded everyone she knew that she enjoyed her life—rich, fulfilling and on her own terms. Our matriarch transitioned from this life to begin a new journey on the evening of Saturday, March 26, her two beloved children at her bedside.

Leola was preceded in death by Reynold O. Jack, her two sons: Berry and Jerry Jack, and siblings: Clinton Berkel, Gwenneth Berkel and Sheila Milton.

Leola is survived by her: two devoted children: Lona Jack-Vilmar and Terry Jack, daughters-in law: Antoinieta Gonzalez-Jack and Michelle Jack, son-in-law: Baba Yaw Vilmar, six adoring grandchildren: Fakoya Jack-Vilmar, Jahkari Jack, Jahkiya Jack, Jene Jack, Khafi Jack and Niara Jack, siblings: Winston, Ivan, Alphie, Blondell, and Andrew Berkel, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends in Aruba, Bermuda, Curaçao, Holland, Statia, Saba, Sint Maarten, and the United States.

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.*

*Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

Acknowledgements

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

May God Bless and Keep You!

Professional Services Provided By:

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