

Forever In Our Hearts

Celebrating
THE
Life
OF

Jean Scilma Jarvis

SUNRISE: June 19, 1942 - SUNSET: April 5, 2025

Friday, April 18, 2025
Viewing: 9am - 10am
Service: 10am

Unity Funeral Chapels, Inc.
2352 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10027

A Joyful Tribute to Jean Icilma

Life began for **Jean Icilma Jarvis** on June 19, 1942, in St. John's, Antigua, born to two phenomenal parents, Louisa and Reginald "Reggie" Jarvis. As the eldest of three sisters, Jean was raised alongside Myrna and Bernadette in a warm and tightly knit family. Surrounded by a large and loving extended family, Jean's upbringing was full of connection, laughter, and strong values that would guide her throughout her life.

Her parents and grandparents worked hard to provide a solid foundation, instilling in her the belief that hard work is honorable and essential. Above all else, they lived by the principle that family always comes first—a value Jean would carry proudly into every stage of her life.

Jean attended school in St. John's, graduating from Princess Margaret Secondary School. Afterward, she began her working life at Moore's Hardware Store before setting her sights on new opportunities in New York City, where she pursued a long and successful career as a nursing professional.

Jean was a force to be reckoned with—strong, outspoken, energetic, and endlessly charismatic. She had a deep love for Caribbean talk radio and Soca music, often filling her home with lively commentary and vibrant rhythms. Sports were another passion, especially cricket, football, and basketball. With her magnetic personality, Jean truly never met a stranger. Her presence was bold, her political views legendary, and she was never one to mince words. Whether you agreed with her or not, Jean always stood firm in what she believed, and her style made sure you noticed.

Professionally and socially, Jean lived a full and vibrant life. She dedicated over fifty years to nursing, working at both St. Vincent and Cabrini Hospitals in Manhattan. Her colleagues and patients knew her as a no-nonsense, deeply caring individual. She also made time for adventure—traveling with her girlfriends, and never missing a chance to return home to Antigua for family visits and carnival celebrations.

After retiring in 2007, Jean embraced the next chapter of her life with joy and grace. She centered her time around God, her family, and her community. Her retirement years were filled with precious moments—gatherings with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, chats with neighbors on sunny days, delicious meals at her favorite restaurants, and volunteer work at the Jewish Nursing Home in Harlem. Jean was also an active member of the Greater Holy Tabernacle Church in the Bronx. Alongside her dear friend Connie, she gave her time and heart to preparing meals and feeding the homeless through the church pantry.

Jean leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unwavering strength. She is survived by her two beloved children, Foster Colbourne (Rachelle) and Orville King (Laura); her sister, Bernadette Braithwaite; seven cherished grandchildren, Kamarr, Sherisse, Levon, Erik, Jael, Aniya, Orrel, and Jarmar; seven great-grandchildren; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, extended family, and dear friends.

Welcoming her at the Golden Gates of Glory are those who preceded her in death: her parents, her siblings, Carolie Griffith and Myrna Jarvis, and her beloved aunt, Iris Crawford.

Jean's life was a radiant tapestry of love, strength, and service. She will be remembered always and missed forever.

Order of Service

Selection

"Blessed Assurance"

Prayer

Bishop Dr. Shelvis Green

Selection

"Going Up Yonder"

Obituary

Jael Colbourne

Reflection on Jean Jarvis Life

(2 minutes) Family and Friends
Speakers requested by the family:

Mr. Foster Colbourne

Ms. Cornelia "Connie" McNair

Ms. Renee Huger

Mr. Rupert Jeremy

Mr. Orville King and Orrel King

Selection

Holy Greater Tabernacle Choir

Eulogy

Bishop Dr. Shelvis Green

Soloist

Jaydenrose

Committal

Bishop Dr. Shelvis Green

Recessional

Interment
Rosehill Cemetery
Linden, New Jersey



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 his call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah 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 savoured 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.



Acknowledgement

***The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.***

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